

ROUTT COUNTY FUNDING REQUEST FORMAT

1. Budget Year

Routt County FY 2020, Northwest Colorado Health FY 2020

2. Requesting entity

Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association (DBA Northwest Colorado Health)

3. Amount requested

\$205,216

4. Project title / Use of funds

Support for Northwest Colorado Health's Home Health, Hospice, the Haven Assisted Living Facility in Hayden, and Community Health Center, located in Steamboat Springs and our Dental Clinic in Oak Creek. Funds will be used to support care provided to under and uninsured residents of Routt County

5. Description of project or use of funds

At Northwest Colorado Health we believe that everyone deserves the chance to achieve their best health. Every day, we partner with individuals throughout Northwest Colorado at their homes, in our clinics, and in the community because healthy people and families create a healthy community. We provide a wide array of comprehensive health care services including primary, behavioral health, and dental care, hospice care and home health to all members of our community. All services are offered on a sliding scale; no individual is denied services or care based on ability to pay. Northwest Colorado Health focuses in providing the following programs and services to Routt County residents:

Community Health Center Program (CHC) – Our Community Health Center in Steamboat Springs provides a full range of high-quality, affordable health care services, including primary care, dental care, behavioral health care, telepsychiatry, case management, referrals, insurance enrollment, and prescription assistance, to all individuals, regardless of ability to pay. In addition, we offer acupuncture as treatment for chronic pain. The availability of this service is vital as many of our patients with chronic pain are not able to afford to these services elsewhere, but provide an essential treatment option that reduces or eliminates the need for opioid-based medications. We also operate the dental clinic in Oak Creek, which provides comprehensive oral health and dental services to Routt County residents. We recently were able to integrate our behavioral health services into our dental clinic. All services are integrated so that all patients can easily access behavioral health services whether they are receiving primary care in our Steamboat Clinic or dental care in our Oak Creek Dental Clinic. Furthermore, we continue to have dental care integrated into our primary care clinic. In 2018, the CHC program served 5,810 clients, with more than 20,059 medical, behavioral, and dental health encounters. Currently, 41% of our Routt County CHC patients have Medicaid and 26% are uninsured.

Home Health – Northwest Colorado Health's Home Health program provides skilled, compassionate and personalized care in the comfort and security of familiar surroundings to home-bound clients on a sliding fee scale in Routt County. In addition, we provide unskilled Home & Community-Based services, which are non-medical tasks such as bathing, housekeeping, and grocery shopping to homebound patients in need. The primary goals of the Home Health program are to return the patient to pre-illness or pre-injury level of function and achieve a maximum level of wellness while remaining in his or her own home. We provide Home Health to all in need regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Furthermore, we often provide uncompensated care Home Health underinsured or uninsured Home Health patients. Northwest Colorado Health continues to be the only agency providing Home Health services in Routt County. In 2018, Northwest Colorado Health's Home Health staff provided care to 189 home-bound clients throughout Routt County. Currently, 58% of our Routt County Home Health patients have public insurance and 21% are uninsured.

Hospice and Palliative Care – Hospice staff provide compassionate, quality care enabling terminally ill patients to approach the end of life with dignity and comfort. We also provide bereavement support for families up to 18 months after the death of a loved one. We provide Hospice care to all in need regardless of a patient’s ability to pay. Furthermore, we often provide uncompensated care to Hospice underinsured or uninsured Home Health patients. Northwest Colorado Health continues to be the only agency providing Hospice services in Routt County. In 2018, Northwest Colorado Health Hospice staff provided care to 45 hospice patients in Routt County.

The Haven Assisted Living - Northwest Colorado Health owns and operates The Haven Assisted Living, a 20-bed assisted living facility in Hayden, Colorado. The Haven has been caring for older adults in the Yampa Valley for more than 20 years. The Haven provides an affordable option for our local seniors to live out the remainder of their years in the community they’ve called home and near family and friends. As seniors age, many find difficulty in planning and preparing meals, experience feelings of loneliness and depression, struggle to do yard work or snow removal, remember to take their medications, or experience fear of what may happen if they fall. To relieve our seniors of these struggles and fears, the Haven offers a home-like atmosphere that ensures the safety of and provides opportunity for sociability to our local seniors. However, operating a stand-alone assisted living facility is incredibly challenging. Some of our most significant challenges include maintaining census, balance of private pay and Medicaid, recruitment and retention of staff, and maintaining financial stability. Due to the obvious and great need for care for the Medicaid and low-income populations, we are committed to continuing to provide this service. The Haven served 22 and had an average census of 16 residents in 2018. In 2019, we aim to maintain a census of 16 residents.

6. Other sources of funding

Northwest Colorado Health is funded through patient service revenue, government contracts, private foundation support, corporate contributions, and individual donations. The highest agency priority is sustainability for current programs. In recent years, Northwest Colorado Health has spent a significant amount of time working to improve our overall financial position. We have been able to greatly increase the amount of our funding that comes directly from fee-for-service. Also, 100% of the Board of Directors and 40% of employees contribute financially to Northwest Colorado Health. Regardless of our improved financial standing, continuing to obtain local funding is imperative to serving our residents and allows us to leverage those local funds to obtain funds from non-local foundations.

7. Grant funding. If a grant is part of the funding for this project please describe the grant, provide supporting documentation. If the grant is federally funded provide the Codification of Federal Domestic Assistance number.

Northwest Colorado Health receives multiple grants from a variety of sources including private foundations, the State of Colorado and the Federal government. Specifically, the The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number is 93.224. No single grant fully supports any program. Furthermore, the majority of the grants received are restricted to specific programs and program activities. Northwest Colorado Health has implemented a diverse funding stream, including patient revenue, federal and state contracts, federal and state grants, private foundation grants, and private donations. By having such diverse sources of revenue, we have been able to weather many challenges, including economic downturns resulting in decreased private donations and decreases in federal and state funding. The full amount of anticipated grant funding for Fiscal Year 2020 can be found in the attached budget.

In the 2020 Fiscal Year we have been granted the following awards:

- Service Area Competition from the Human Resource & Services Administration – \$2,353,060.00

- Funding is may only be used to support all aspects of providing care to patients through our Community Health Center.
- Grant number: H80CS10610
- Delta Dental - \$64,976.33
 - Funding supports efforts to reduce no show and late cancellation rates in our dental clinics to ultimately decrease wait times for patients.
- Colorado Health Access Fund - \$113,191.00
 - Funding supports behavioral health care.
- We have not yet secured funding to support Home Health and Hospice in fiscal year 2020.

8. Justification. Provide information as to why the request is needed. Provide statistical information such as case load, turn around time, reductions in cost, etc. to justify the request. Complete a cost/benefit analysis justifying the request if appropriate.

Annually, Northwest Colorado Health serves nearly 20,000 clients through multiple programs throughout the Yampa Valley. Typically, more than half of these clients are from Routt County, and 120 of our employees are based in Routt County. Northwest Colorado Health is the safety net organization for Routt County residents in need of low-cost health services that ensures everyone has access to the care they need.

As the only safety net provider in Routt County, Northwest Colorado Health serves a significant role in the health of our community, especially for uninsured, underinsured, and individuals enrolled in Medicaid. The nearest source of primary care other than Northwest Colorado Health providing sliding fee scale services to the uninsured is Mountain Family Health Centers in Edwards, Colorado, and a distance of 78 miles from Steamboat Springs. Even under the best driving conditions, this is a 1.5 hour drive, much of it on two lane roads crossing mountain passes and canyons. Furthermore, Northwest Colorado Health is the only provider of oral health and dental care that provides services on a sliding fee scale and accept adult Medicaid in Routt County. Furthermore, Home Services (Home Health, Hospice, and unskilled Home & Community-Based services) are vital to ensuring our community members are able to live in Routt County for the remainder of their lives. They support our aging population, and allow all individuals served to live as independently as possible.

Many individuals in Routt County face economic, systemic, and geographic barriers to accessing affordable and appropriate health care and wellness services. Specifically, Low-income individuals are at higher risk of developing health conditions and not receiving necessary care. Currently, 17% of individuals in Routt County are at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and are uninsured. Lack of health insurance poses a formidable barrier to health care as nearly 18% of Low income respondents reported that they did not seek needed care due to cost, as compared to 8% of higher income Coloradoans.

Northwest Colorado remains the hardest to insure region in the state. Though the uninsured rate for our Health Statistics Region (Routt, Moffat, Jackson, and Rio Blanco counties) has decreased from 25% to 13% since the first Open Enrollment in 2013 to 2017, the uninsured rate remains higher than the rest of the state. The primary reason for this is the high premium rates in the region. Northwest Colorado is included with the resort region of Colorado when determining premium rates, which has drastically increased premiums. Furthermore, recent changes to the affordable care act will likely continue to increase the number of people we see without insurance. Also, in Steamboat Springs, there is a high amount of seasonal resort workers during ski season. These individuals are often low income, and many of whom do not have a medical home. Seasonal workers are often not eligible for benefits through their employer, and typically can't afford private insurance.

Northwest Colorado Health believes that good health is a requirement for a thriving community. Our community's quality of life is undeniably impacted by the health of our residents. As we look into the future of Routt County, it is essential that we continue to create a place where residents want to work, live, and play. In addition, by ensuring Routt County's health, we are decreasing health care costs, creating a strong and competitive workforce, and fueling our economy. According to the National Economic and Community Impact of Federal Health Center Funding, Community Health Centers have a ripple effect on the communities they serve by creating jobs and fueling the economy through the purchase of goods and supplies. Community Health Centers in Colorado have a combined direct and indirect economic impact of \$1,783,000,000 and create a total of 9,779 jobs, 4,426 of which are in other industries.

9. Consequences of postponement or denial. If the expenditure is postponed or denied what are the consequences (financial, completion of projects, etc.)?

The ongoing availability of high quality primary, behavioral health, and oral health care, home health, and hospice services is critical for sustaining a healthy community, including healthy residents, a healthy workforce and a healthy economy. The overall health and wellness of Routt County residents will suffer if funding is postponed or denied. Postponing or denying this request will result in a reduction in Northwest Colorado Health's ability to provide care for Routt County residents.

10. Alternatives to the request / project.

A reduction of funding would lead to a reduction in staffing as well as services.

11. Describe who will benefit from the request/project, how many people will benefit and why is support from Routt County taxpayers is appropriate?

All Routt County residents benefit from a robust and innovative health system that makes the patient a priority. Northwest Colorado Health programs are available to every County resident on a sliding fee scale—ensuring that all residents can access the services they need to live a healthy, productive life. Routt County support is essential and necessary for health of our community, and Northwest Colorado Health provides a tremendous return on investment for taxpayers. Additionally, Northwest Colorado Health serves our aging population through all lines of service, and programs such as the Haven ensure our local residents are able to stay in our communities and age in place. Northwest Colorado Health continues to prove an effective and efficient use of public funding in providing critical health and wellness services.