



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: **The Colorado Trust**

Grantee or Initiative: **Colorado Children's Health Care Access Program**

Amount of Grant: **\$300,000**

Period of Grant Award: **2008-2011**

The Colorado Trust invested \$300,000 (2008 to 2011) in the Aurora-based *Colorado Children's Health Care Access Program* (CCHAP) to help develop new financially sustainable models to provide high quality medical care for children in low income families in Colorado, who have not been able to obtain a regular source of quality health care. Prior to CCHAP, only 20% of Colorado's pediatric practices accepted publicly insured children. CCHAP organized 16 support services designed to enable pediatricians and family physicians to devote 10% to 20% of their practice to the care of publicly insured children. Because of CCHAP's work, 87% of Colorado's 121 pediatric practices now provide care for Medicaid and CHP+ children, and an estimated 60,000 children have been served. CCHAP also has received support from Caring for Colorado, Piton Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, The Colorado Health Foundation, The Children's Hospital Foundation, The Community Child Health Foundation and The Denver Foundation.

CCHAP's "sister" program—the *Socio-Cultural Training Program* (STeP)—is one of 26 grantees statewide working on The Colorado Trust's \$13.1 million Equality in Health Initiative (2005 to 2012) to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities in Colorado by helping health care providers gain the skills necessary to consider unique cultural backgrounds as they provide care. Despite Colorado's generally positive health status, more than a quarter of the state's population, comprising Latinos, African-Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, is disproportionately affected by disease, disability and death. According to the Institute of Medicine's 2002 groundbreaking report, *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, "although myriad sources contribute to these disparities, some evidence suggests that a trend in bias, prejudice and stereotyping on the part of health care providers may contribute to differences in care."

STeP provides cultural competency training for private practice pediatricians and their staffs, addressing topics such as cross-cultural communication, assessing a practice's readiness to care for children from other cultures, and identifying health disparities and what providers can do to help reduce them. To date, 46 of the state's 121 pediatric practices and 40 pediatric faculty members and 56 pediatric residents at the University of Colorado School of Medicine have participated in STeP.