



Great Grants and Initiatives

Grantor: Community First Foundation

Grantee or Initiative: Seniors' Resource Center

Grant Amount: \$106,789 Period of Grant Award: 2007-2009

Foundation Partners with Nonprofit and Doctors to Improve Seniors' Well-Being

Older adults typically look to their doctors for help with a variety of personal needs. But often, these needs are not medical, and the doctor is not the best resource for help. Personal needs may include transportation, personal care and simple wellness checks. And with the number of older adults expected to double in Colorado over the next decade, the challenge is growing.

That's why doctors welcomed a new pilot project that placed a full-time care coordinator from Seniors' Resource Center at Wheat Ridge Internal Medicine to provide assessments, handle non-medical calls and arrange for services such as meals and transportation.

"A collaboration has been created with a primary care practice and community-based services in an effort to provide a seamless safety net system for older patients," said Cheryl Haggstrom, executive vice president of Community First Foundation. "The Foundation is always looking for innovative ways to improve the health of the community and its residents."

"People get so isolated that they often call their doctor for non-medical reasons," said Jane Yeager, senior vice president of coordinated care for Seniors' Resource Center. "Our goal is to improve the quality of seniors' lives through a coordinated delivery system. The latent benefit is that doctors can spend additional time with patients talking about true medical issues."

Community First Foundation supported a three-year pilot program to provide a full-time care navigator at Wheat Ridge Internal Medicine, a practice where the majority of the patients are older adults. Due to the success of the program Seniors' Resource Center has launched similar programs in other locations in Jefferson County.