



2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Colorado Consumer Health Initiative (CCHI), working in partnership with hundreds of individual and organizational members, achieved significant improvements in Colorado's health care system in 2005.

We are successfully finding a common voice to increase access to health care for all Coloradans. As a result, *thousands of Coloradans have gained access to health care.*

Key achievements in our three program areas include:

EDUCATION/COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Resources for the Uninsured**—We released a comprehensive guide to services for the uninsured, “Connecting Care and Health in Colorado: A Guide to Services for the Uninsured”, which provides information to consumers, advocates and health care providers regarding public programs and resources for the uninsured.
- **Story Bank**—We created a story bank of Coloradans who are uninsured, on public programs or have problems accessing or paying for health care. These stories help to increase public awareness about the importance of health care accessibility and affordability. Our story bank participants share their story with the media and with the legislature to put a face on health care issues, ensuring that we do not lose sight of the human side of health care policy.
- **Presentations**—We conducted over 90 health care educational presentations in multiple counties, including Larimer, Weld, Mesa, Montrose, La Plata, Montrose, Pitkin, El Paso, Jefferson, Denver, Arapahoe, Adams, Boulder, and others. These presentations reached over 3,000 people.
- **Media Outreach**—We created a health care resource list for reporters that allows them to quickly identify individuals who can provide information about specific health care issues. We also achieved media coverage on television, radio, and newspaper, to raise awareness about critical health care issues.

COALITION BUILDING/COMMUNITY ORGANIZING:

- **Small Business Organizing**—We established a Healthy Business Coalition made up of small business owners from throughout the state. We are working with these individuals to address rising health care costs for small businesses.
- **Rural Organizing**—We strengthened our partnership along the Western Slope and in the El Paso County area, and continue to reach out to every corner of the state to develop a true statewide voice for consumers throughout Colorado.
- **Faith Organizing**—We worked with faith leaders to ensure that the moral imperative of health care justice is at the heart of all public dialogue on health care policy. We have developed lasting relationships with individual faith leaders who engage in advocacy efforts with their congregants to improve access to quality, affordable health care.

POLICY ACTIVITIES:

- **Tobacco Tax**—We played a critical role in implementing the Amendment 35 tobacco tax legislation. As a result, **90,000** new individuals are eligible for health care.
- **Referendum C**—We helped pass Referendum C, which allows the state to keep and spend tax revenues on health care. We conducted numerous educational presentations on the Western Slope and in the Metro area, distributed yard signs, organized volunteers to do literature drops in the Metro area, and conducted Get Out the Vote activities.
- **HIFA Waiver**—We helped to pass a bill to ensure legislative and community oversight into the Health Insurance Flexibility and Accountability (HIFA) waiver process. A HIFA waiver can be used to streamline Medicaid and CHP, but it also can reduce coverage for some populations and cap federal funding. As a result, the legislature voted against a HIFA waiver and is now considering alternatives that will better serve low income Coloradans.

BARRIER FREE
ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE