

OFFICE OF GOV. BILL RITTER, JR.

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**GOV. RITTER APPLAUDS TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
FOR RECEIVING \$10.5 MILLION AS PART OF RECOVERY ACT
PREVENTION AND WELLNESS INITIATIVE**

Gov. Bill Ritter today congratulated Tri-County Health Department for being awarded a national grant of \$10.5 million to support healthy eating and physical activity in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. This grant is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* initiative, which was presented by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at an announcement in Washington, D.C. on March 19, 2010.

"Colorado remains one of the leanest states in the nation, but rates of obesity are on the rise, so this grant will help to keep us healthy," said Gov. Ritter. "Tri-County Health Department serves 25% of the state's population and their work on this grant will have broad impact on Coloradans' health."

A total of \$372.8 million, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, was awarded to 44 communities, including counties, cities, towns and tribes. These nationwide grants support public health efforts to increase the availability of healthy foods and beverages; improve nutrition and reduce obesity; increase physical activity; decrease smoking; and encourage smoke-free environments—critical actions for combating chronic diseases and promoting health.

Tri-County Health Department will focus on policy, systems and environmental changes that promote healthy eating and physical activity. Approximately 70 percent of the two-year \$10.5 million award will be directed to school districts, municipalities and other community organizations working on these efforts in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties.

"The work supported by this grant will benefit people of all ages. The focus on policy, systems and environmental change is the most effective way to achieve sustainable, population-wide impact," states Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department.

"The ultimate goal of these projects is to prevent cancer, heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and other chronic diseases from occurring in the first place. And prevention is always more effective and cost-efficient than treatment," added Vogt.

Tri-County Health Department represents the 1.3 million residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. To learn more about Tri-County Health Department's CPPW grant program, visit www.tchd.org. To learn more about *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*, visit www.hhs.gov/recovery and www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/recovery.

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