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GettingUSCovered Enrollees Begin Receiving Care September 1

DENVER, Colo. – Nearly 200 people can begin receiving medical care today thanks to GettingUSCovered, Colorado’s statewide, comprehensive health plan for people with preexisting medical conditions. The three-year program, which launched in July, is designed to provide health insurance to people who have been unable to buy it due to their medical status.

GettingUSCovered was developed in a partnership between Rocky Mountain Health Plans, CoverColorado, the State of Colorado, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is funded through individual premiums and subsidized with federal funding.

“It is exciting to be part of a program that is helping our state’s uninsured citizens get much-needed health care coverage,” said Steve ErkenBrack, president of Rocky Mountain Health Plans. “There has been a tremendous interest in the program so far and our enrollment numbers are right on target.”

Since the program launched on July 6, 2010, GettingUSCovered has received thousands of phone and email inquiries, and 205 applications for September 1 coverage. Of those applications, 177 have been approved. Another 28 are pending approval upon completion of final documentation. Applicants range in age from under 20 to 64; some are working without benefits; others are self-employed; and some are recently unemployed.

They include people such as Johanna Beeman, 40, who has been uninsured for three years due to a diagnosis of depression. Beeman has relied on getting medical advice and

prescriptions at health fairs, community clinics and urgent care clinics, along the way falling into credit card debt to pay for medications and medical bills.

“I am so relieved to have GettingUSCovered now,” said Beeman. “If I need to see a doctor, I don’t have to worry.”

GettingUSCovered and National Health Care Reform

GettingUSCovered is Colorado’s federal high-risk pool. Such high-risk pools were enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act health care reform legislation. Colorado received \$90 million out of \$5 billion allocated nationwide over three years.

Colorado expects to be able to expand coverage to up to 4,000 currently uninsured people. The high-risk pool program is a bridge to 2014, when all individuals will be able to buy health insurance without regard to preexisting conditions.

Enrollment

Individuals can submit applications to the plan today at gettinguscovered.org. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Individuals who submit applications by September 15 would begin to receive coverage on October 1, 2010.

About Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Founded in Grand Junction, Colo. in 1974, as a community-run, not-for-profit organization, Rocky Mountain Health Plans uniquely understands Colorado’s health care consumers, with a core commitment that everyone should have access to affordable, quality health care. It serves more than 180,000 Members through a network of more than 13,000 physicians, hospitals, pharmacies, and other providers. Rocky Mountain believes receiving preventive care is key to maintaining good health, which is why it is included as a standard component in benefit plans. Rocky Mountain is the only health plan in Colorado serving every market segment including employers, individuals, Medicare, Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus beneficiaries. For more information, visit rmhp.org.

About CoverColorado

CoverColorado has been providing comprehensive health coverage for people who have difficulty finding coverage for the past 19 years. CoverColorado currently provides health insurance for more than 11,000 individuals with pre-existing conditions that prevent them from getting coverage in private health plans. CoverColorado is not state-run, nor is it an indigent care program. An independent non-profit, CoverColorado’s existing program is funded 50 percent from member premiums, 25 percent from insurance carrier assessments and 25 percent from the state’s unclaimed property fund. For more information, visit covercolorado.org.

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