



**TO:** Ashlie Brown, SES Director, and CHES RFP Team  
**FROM:** The All Kids Covered Leadership Team  
**DATE:** April 22, 2016  
**RE:** Draft Request for Proposals: Regional Health Connector Host Organization

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On behalf of the All Kids Covered (AKC) initiative, the below signed organizations (who make up the AKC leadership team) are supportive of the Regional Health Connector (RHC) program, and its focus on strengthening local partnerships and coordinating available resources to improve health in Colorado.

AKC is a non-partisan statewide coalition working to reduce the number of uninsured children in Colorado, and improve access to and the quality of health care for Colorado's kids. It is a collaboration of over 40 organizations throughout the state that are committed to helping kids reach their fullest potential.

To keep the health needs of children integrated with the RHC program, we encourage the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) to consider the following when finalizing the request for proposals and other details of the RHC program:

- When appointing members of the RHC selection committee, we encourage you to include experts in children's health and healthy development.
- As currently described, the RHC model focuses on improving community infrastructure so that a patient can successfully carry out a health care provider's recommendations. In addition, we encourage the model to consider the need to coordinate with service providers outside of primary care settings, such as those working in early childhood education settings. Also, we encourage CHI to consider incorporating a component of engaging the patient, and when applicable, their families to ensure that the resources that patients and families are connected to are appropriate and trusted sources.
- In providing support to RHCs with data and research, we encourage CHI to incorporate comprehensive data sets which include indicators of post-partum wellbeing, and children's physical health, mental health, and oral health, as well as data that tracks developmental screenings, referrals, treatment, and follow-up.
- We encourage RHCs to connect with community-based organizations that specialize in working with specific populations to promote health equity. These populations include children, families, people with disabilities, people from diverse racial and ethnic identities, immigrants, and others. In addition, we encourage collaboration with non-medical service providers like food pantries, child care providers, early childhood education settings, schools, housing assistance programs, and faith organizations.
- We also encourage RHCs to connect and collaborate with community-based organizations that provide assistance to individuals enrolling in health coverage. These organizations are distributed statewide, have strong ties in their respective communities, and have established themselves as trusted resources for local community members. In



particular, we encourage connecting with family resource centers, county health/human services, Healthy Communities family health coordinators, School-Based Health Centers, and application assistance sites certified through the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and Connect for Health Colorado.

- We encourage CHI to allow for varying travel budgets depending on the size of the regions as rural coordinators may have to travel long distances within their catchment area.
- We support the proposal to use RHCs to break down silos between providers, recognizing the importance of integrated care for children and families.
- We encourage incorporating an active evaluation component to allow for needed course corrections as this is implemented as well as a plan for long-term sustainability so the progress that is attained in the foreseeable future is not lost.
- Finally, we offer a reminder that children and pregnant women have special, often prevention-focused, physical and behavioral health care needs. Interventions during these critical periods can have long-term downstream consequences that improve the health and well-being of Coloradans. We encourage RHCs to embrace the opportunity to help address community factors that will help support the health of the whole family, and help children grow up in safe and stable families.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft RFP.

All Kids Covered Leadership Team,

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