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Contact: Myung Oak Kim, Myung.kim@state.co.us, 303-947-5708
Sharon Knight, SKnight@ColoradoNonprofits.org 303-832-5710

COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION RECEIVES RECOVERY ACT GRANT TO HELP NONPROFITS CREATE JOBS AND SPUR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

DENVER – The Colorado Nonprofit Association has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help nonprofit agencies across Colorado create jobs and economic growth in their communities. The grant was awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through a program called the Strengthening Communities Fund.

“I applaud the Colorado Nonprofit Association and other agencies for taking advantage of Recovery Act opportunities to help find solutions to the economic needs in communities across Colorado,” said Governor Bill Ritter Jr. “This is an innovative way for nonprofit agencies, who know their communities so well, to partner with government to create jobs and strengthen neighborhoods.”

“Our grant proposal was a team effort from state and local government offices, as well as nonprofits around the state,” said Renny Fagan, president and CEO of the Colorado Nonprofit Association. “The grant will allow the Association to help nonprofits reach more people, work more effectively with government partners and provide increased resources to face the workforce needs of this challenging economy.”

The Colorado Nonprofit Association partnered with the Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships (DOSP), an office created by Mayor Hickenlooper to further connections between City agencies and the nonprofit sector. Mike Roque, director of DOSP added, “We are pleased to work with the Colorado Nonprofit Association to provide these essential programs and services to nonprofits and government in the City and County of Denver.” The grant was written in partnership with Randall Funding and Development through a contract with the City of Denver.

Sharon Knight, vice president and COO of the Association reported, “We are grateful for the generous support of three foundations that provided matching grants to support our proposal. The Boettcher Foundation, Anschutz Family Foundation and El Pomar Foundation provided matching funds for the project.” These foundations are part of a larger collaboration of Colorado foundations that respond to nonprofits’ need to raise matching dollars for Recovery Act grant proposals. To date, the collaboration has leveraged over \$100,000 to help Colorado secure more than \$1 million in new money from the federal stimulus bill.

Specific details of the grant include:

- Providing information about Recovery Act opportunities, training and technical assistance to nonprofits across the state;

- Hosting educational sessions to increase nonprofits' capacity to develop strong programs to further workforce readiness and employment with their constituencies;
- Increasing nonprofits' knowledge about government agencies and interrelationship with their objectives;
- Strengthening partnerships between nonprofits and government for shared problem resolution and creation of new programs; and
- Facilitating town hall sessions for nonprofits and government to find commonalities and explore collaborative solutions to workforce readiness and employment issues.

ABOUT THE COLORADO NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION

The Colorado Nonprofit Association is a statewide nonprofit membership coalition connecting nonprofits of all sizes, missions and geographic locations. The organization serves its 1,300 members by providing tools for communication, networking and administration. It also strengthens the nonprofit community through trainings, forums for discussion of current issues, and public advocacy on behalf of the nonprofit sector. To learn more about the Colorado Nonprofit Association, go to www.ColoradoNonprofits.org

ABOUT THE DENVER OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Denver Office of Strategic Partnerships (DOSP) was created in January 2004 by Mayor Hickenlooper to serve as a liaison between the City of Denver and the nonprofit sector. DOSP serves as a catalyst to leverage the best of Denver's public and nonprofit sectors to engage in innovative and collaborative work. DOSP believes that by working collectively, the public and nonprofit sectors can be even more efficient and effective in strengthening Denver's communities. For more information visit www.denvergov.org/strategicpartnerships

More information about the Recovery Act is available at www.colorado.gov/recovery.