



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Colorado —Rural Housing Service

Community Building

Integrating Healthcare Improves Quality of Life For Rural Residents

Outline Of Need:

Axis Health System has realized that the integration of behavioral health (mental health and substance use) and primary care along with public health (prevention and wellness) will significantly improve health outcomes across all populations while increasing the life spans of patients with severe and persistent mental illness.

How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development provided a \$1,867,500 Community Facility Guaranteed Loan in partnership with Alpine Bank to Axis Health System (formerly called Southwest Colorado Mental Health) to help build a new combined facility in Cortez, CO.

The Results:

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facility Guaranteed Loan

Investment: \$1,867,500 Loan

Partners: Alpine Bank

Demographics

Rural Population—8632

Facility will serve Montezuma and Dolores Counties. Dolores county is an Economic Impact Initiative (EII) county in Colorado based on their high “not employed” rate and low economic activity.

Impact:

- Health care can be more effective when all aspects of treatment (physical and mental) are integrated into one location



Groundbreaking for Cortez Integrated Healthcare in Cortez on Feb. 3, 2011, held at the site of the 11,500 square foot center and plans to open in January 2012.

This integration builds on the models of consultation, collaboration, and co-location of services; a concept which is embedded in Federal Healthcare Reform.

Working on this concept, Axis Health System brought behavioral health services into 5 different primary care settings including a Federally Qualified Health Center, a Rural Health Clinic, two School-Based Health Centers and a private, pediatric, primary care practice.

This led Axis Health System to commit to construction of a new, uniquely designed, integrated care facility wholly operated by Axis Health System.

The loan guarantee from USDA Rural Development allowed the entity to move this critically important and cutting edge project from conceptualization to implementation and ultimately service to the community.

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