



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. **Consumer protection is our mission.** As a division of DORA, the Civil Rights Division (CCRD) protects Coloradans from unlawful discrimination in employment, housing and places of public accommodation.*

State Civil Rights Division Awards Funds to Disability Service Groups

(Denver, Colorado, July 26, 2011) - The Colorado Civil Rights Division ("CCRD") is awarding more than \$150,000 to disability service groups across the state to provide home modifications to individuals with mobility impairments. The funds will be used to construct wheelchair ramps, widen doorways, and make other modifications needed to provide greater accessibility to individuals in their homes.

The CCRD obtained the funds as a result of settlement agreements that were executed after complaints were filed against housing builders/providers that failed to construct homes that were accessible to individuals who use wheelchairs for mobility in accordance with the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, section 24-34-502, C.R.S.

Steven Chavez, Director of the Division of Civil Rights, in consultation with Veronica Barela, President/CEO of NEWSED Community Development Corporation, a Complainant in the original lawsuits, met to decide which organizations would receive the funds as provided by the terms of the settlement agreement. Director Chavez also met with leaders in the disability community to craft a transparent process used to distribute the funds. Lloyd Lewis, ARC CEO, was instrumental in bringing members of the disability community together to advise Director Chavez.

The funds will be disbursed to the Center for Disabilities in Pueblo, Colorado Alliance for Health and Independence in Centennial, Community Caring Hands, Inc. in Sterling, and Developmental Pathways in Centennial, Colorado. The funds will be made available to individuals statewide.

Director Chavez stated "That of all the groups we serve, people with mobility disabilities have a very difficult time performing simple everyday tasks that we take for granted. I am honored to assist them anyway I can. In addition, I encourage those with disabilities to contact our office if they believe they have been discriminated against because of their disability."

For any media outlets interesting in pursuing additional coverage on this award, including interviewing parties involved, please contact Chris Lines at (303) 894-7873