

DECEMBER 20, 2006



Bacon's

Help line launched to reduce the number of uninsured

After discovering that nearly one quarter of Colorado's estimated uninsured are eligible for government health insurance but aren't enrolled, the Foundation for Health Coverage Education (FHCE) has expanded its 1-800 uninsured help line to offer eligible Coloradans access to information about available public

and private coverage.

"Research shows that many Coloradans have access to programs, but they're either unaware of the programs or need help signing up," said Philip Lebherz, founder of FHCE. "This service provides live counselors to help simplify the eligibility and enrollment process to help more people obtain the coverage they need."

A close look at the 687,000 Coloradans reported to be without health insurance reveals that the truly uninsured number is only 180,000. The rest of this identified population is comprised of those eligible for public insurance programs (161,000) but not signed up, those temporarily uninsured because of transitions in employment (125,000), and those earning \$50,000 or more annually (221,000) who prefer to pay as they go or think insurance is too costly. The help line (1-800-234-1317) provides live one-on-one assistance and is staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week with friendly information specialists and interpreters who offer basic screening for both public and private health insurance.

The Foundation for Health Coverage Education (FHCE) is a non-profit 501(c)3 private organization based in San Jose, Calif. It was founded in response to the increasing number of uninsured who are eligible for programs but not enrolled. More information is available at www.coverageforall.org.