

January 2024

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Pueblo Library District to launch new telehealth service

PUEBLO, Colo. — Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) will soon provide patrons living in Rye and Colorado City with means to access telehealth services. Connect to Health at Your Library aims to provide broadband connectivity, essential equipment and training, enabling community members to connect with health professionals and access various medical e-services.

This initiative is part of a larger effort to increase access to virtual health services for rural communities thanks to a \$125,000 grant from the Colorado Lt. Governor’s Office of eHealth Innovations. PCCLD is one of 15 rural libraries to receive funds to go towards the purchase of telehealth equipment.

Health professionals from Health Solutions-Pueblo will provide [xxxxx]

“Healthcare and access to healthcare and health information is a critical aspect of a person’s physical and mental health and well-being. The Pueblo City-County Library District is very happy to partner with the State of Colorado in bringing access to telehealth services to the Colorado City and Rye communities,” Sherri Baca PCCLD’s executive director said.

At this time, four telehealth kits are available only at the Greenhorn Valley Branch Library, located at 4801 Cibola Drive in Colorado City. Each kit contains:

- An internet connected tablet
- Pulse oximeter
- Digital thermometer
- Web camera and lights

For members of the public without internet access, a Wifi hotspot is included in the kits and they can check out the kit to use at home for one week. Kits are only available at the Greenhorn Valley branch and must be returned at this location.

This initiative is supported by local partners, including Health Solutions in collaboration with the Colorado State Library, the National Library of Medicine and the American Health Association.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), residents living in rural areas are more likely to die from chronic conditions including:

- Heart disease
- Cancer
- Chronic lower respiratory disease
- Stroke

The CDC continued that the reasons rural residents having a higher risk of dying of chronic conditions are due to:

- Longer driving distances to major hospitals, clinics or universities offering specialized care.
- Too few local clinics and not enough providers.
- Lack of access to medical technology.

These factors can make it difficult or impossible for rural residents to get services like mental health care, preventative checkups, adequate support for chronic conditions, or follow-up appointments with specialists.

Telehealth is one way that can help connect rural residents with healthcare providers without the barriers of travel. Because of free internet access, libraries can further help connect area residents to health care providers.

“The public library remains at the crossroads of needs for information and services – we are proud to do this work and provide a meaningful addition to library offerings,” Baca said.

PCCLD is dedicated to serving as a foundation for the Pueblo community by offering welcoming, well equipped and maintained facilities, outstanding collections, and well-trained employees who provide expert service encouraging the joy of reading, supporting lifelong learning and presenting access to information from around the world.

Stay up to date with PCCLD visit www.pueblolibrary.org and follow our social media pages.

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NOTES: from state

Press Release - provided by library tool kit

<Library Name> Launches “Connect to Health @ Your Library” Initiative for Telehealth and E-Services Access

[City] – **<Library Name>** is stepping up to bridge the healthcare accessibility gap with the introduction of Connect to Health @ Your Library. This initiative aims to provide broadband

connectivity, essential equipment and training, enabling community members in <Local Name> to connect with health professionals and access various medical e-services. At <Library Name>, patrons can *<insert your equipment> <specify if able to take home> [e.g. check out laptops, private rooms, and necessary equipment to schedule private telehealth consultations].*

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlight that rural residents face increased difficulties from chronic conditions due to limited healthcare access. Factors such as long distances to medical facilities, a scarcity of local clinics and providers and insufficient access to medical technology contribute to this disparity. With a commitment to bolstering digital access and literacy, <Library Name> is taking a proactive role in driving accessibility and connectivity for all Coloradans.

This groundbreaking initiative is made possible through a \$125,000 grant from the Colorado Lt. Governor's Office of eHealth Innovations, which recognizes the urgent need to address healthcare accessibility disparities. Connect to Health @ Your Library will equip small libraries in more than 15 rural communities across Colorado, including <Library Name> starting on <Start Date> through <End Date>.

This initiative is supported by local partners, including <Local Partners>, in collaboration with the Colorado State Library, the National Library of Medicine and the American Health Association. Generous contributions, such as blood pressure cuffs and bathroom scales from the American Heart Association, further enhance the impact and readiness of telehealth hubs in these libraries.

For further information about Connect to Health @ Your Library, telehealth and other services in <Library Name>, please contact:

[Contact Name]

[Title]

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