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Denver, CO, April 22, 2020

## STRIDE Community Health Center to Receive \$100,000 from the Siemens Foundation to Support COVID-19 Response

- **The Denver-based community health center is one of 12 receiving financial support from the non-profit organization**

The [Siemens Foundation](#) today announced it is committing \$100,000 to Denver-based STRIDE Community Health Center to aid in their response to the COVID-19 crisis. The community healthcare organization is one of 12 across the U.S. receiving financial support from the non-profit organization established by Siemens USA. Aligning with its dedication to social equity, the Siemens Foundation is committing a total of \$1.5 million to supporting these critical healthcare providers so they can continue serving their communities when they are needed most. The center is free to use the funding as it deems necessary in response to the crisis.

“We are so grateful for the generous funding from Siemens Foundation to support general operating costs for STRIDE during this time,” stated Ben Wiederholt, CEO of STRIDE Community Health Center. “As a Community Health Center that supports some of the most vulnerable individuals in the Denver metro, we knew that we needed to be on the forefront of COVID-19 testing and treatment in Colorado. We immediately went to work developing two drive-thru testing locations, while also creating the infrastructure to provide telehealth for all our clinical services. We understand how important it is for current and new patients to continue having access to the critical healthcare services they need during this unprecedented time. This funding support from Siemens Foundation ensures that we can continue on the path of providing healthcare for all members of our community in need.”

“Our community health centers play a vital role in providing care to vulnerable communities,” said Senator Cory Gardner. “I will keep fighting to ensure that community health centers have the resources they need for their courageous work

on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I'm proud to see organizations like the Siemens Foundation stepping up to support them."

"We are incredibly grateful for this support to help our most vulnerable residents during this health crisis," said Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock. "We salute both STRIDE and Siemens for their generous commitment to our community."

"STRIDE Community Health Center has provided essential health services to the Aurora community for decades," said Aurora Mayor Mike Coffman. "Now more than ever, our city needs the services that STRIDE provides, and we are so thankful for this added funding support from Siemens to ensure our residents get the care they need."

STRIDE Community Health Center has been serving the Denver metro area for 31 years, operating across a five-county area providing health care to the more than 50,000 underserved, uninsured and working individuals and families who need it most. STRIDE has embraced its leadership role in the community during the crisis, focusing on COVID-19 testing and mitigation efforts. They have partnered with local and state officials to create two drive-thru testing sites serving healthcare workers, first responders and the general public during scheduled times. STRIDE has also made available tele-health and telephone visits for the first time to allow patients to continue receiving medical, dental and behavioral health care during the pandemic. The brand-new service was up and running successfully within a matter of days. In addition to tele-health and testing, STRIDE has partnered with Metropolitan State University of Denver to provide nursing students with clinical hours at STRIDE's drive-thru testing locations so that students receive valuable hands-on experience and are able to complete their practicum required for graduation.

STRIDE was selected in consultation with the National Association of Community Health Centers, the Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, and Siemens. In determining the 12 centers to receive funding, they prioritized centers that serve the most underserved populations, including those in poverty, the homeless, the elderly and veterans. In addition, they looked at the quality of the centers, those serving the most vulnerable to COVID-19, financial stability, need, and number of patients served overall.

“As the COVID-19 crisis disproportionately threatens lower-income and medically underserved communities, it’s important for us to support the institutions that sustain our social compact,” said David Etwiler, CEO of the Siemens Foundation.

“Community health centers and their staff are on the front lines providing basic primary care every day and they now play an especially critical role in our medical services infrastructure when emergency services and hospital settings are overwhelmed. Vital services like these are paramount to supporting equity across America.”

The \$1.5 million total commitment is funded, in part, by the Siemens Healthineers Fund of the Siemens Foundation, supported by Siemens Healthineers business in the United States.

“It is a critical time to ensure that all patients and families are able to access the care they need,” said Dave Pacitti, Siemens Foundation Board of Directors member, President of Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc. and Head of Siemens Healthineers North America. “The nation’s community health centers are a vital safety net for millions of patients, and these investments will help them to continue providing affordable care that strengthens the entire U.S. healthcare system in combatting the pandemic.”

For more information on the Siemens Foundation, follow @SFoundation on Twitter or visit [www.siemens-foundation.org](http://www.siemens-foundation.org).

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### **About STRDIE Community Health Center**

[STRIDE Community Health Center](#) is a non-profit Federally Qualified Health Center that has served the Denver metropolitan area since 1989. STRIDE provides community and refugee medical, dental, mental health, substance abuse, pharmacy, and community-based services, including case management, outreach to the homeless, adolescent services, health education, and maternal child health to the more than 50,000 underserved, uninsured and working individuals and families who need health care services the most. STRIDE serves a five-county area and has one of the largest population bases of any Community Health Center in Colorado.

**About the Siemens Foundation**

The Siemens Foundation has invested more than \$122 million in the United States to advance workforce development and education initiatives in science, technology, engineering and math. Our mission is inspired by the culture of innovation, research and continuous learning that is the hallmark of Siemens' companies. Together, the programs at the Siemens Foundation are narrowing the opportunity gap for young people in the U.S. in STEM careers and igniting and sustaining today's STEM workforce and tomorrow's scientists and engineers.