

Community Health Services: History

Community Health Services (CHS) was founded in September 1978 as School Health Corporation with a five-year grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The goals of the organization were to provide primary health care to school-age children in Commerce City at a reasonable cost and to develop a cost-sharing model between educational, medical, and community sectors to make the program cost-effective and practical.

Services to children began in November 1979, with a physician and nurse practitioners providing the care. In the fall of 1982, School Health Corporation was awarded 501 (c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service.

In 1984, the name Commerce City Community Health Services was chosen to reflect the role of this community-based organization. Subsequently, the organization chose to do business as Community Health Services because the agency does not have geographical residency requirements in order to access services.

In April 1985, CHS became a Mile High United Way member agency and is proud to continue this partnership today.

Since its inception over 30 years ago, CHS has provided more than 100,000 health care visits to 43,500 children. Though our name has changed, our vision has stayed the same – that no child goes without the medical care he or she needs, regardless of the family's insurance status or ability to pay.