

**February 9, 2024****News Release***Karen Martsolf, MA*  
*Chief Marketing/Communications Officer*  
(970) 644-3490 (o)  
(970) 778-1249 (c)  
kmartsolf@gjhosp.org**Community Hospital Among Six Independent Hospitals Who Participated in Western Healthcare Alliance Economic Impact Study**

Mesa County, CO - Western Healthcare Alliance's (WHA) independent hospital members recently partnered with the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder in late 2023 to complete an Economic Impact Study. Community Hospital was among six independent hospitals throughout western Colorado who participated in the study.

The study reviewed the labor and capital portfolio of each participating hospital and how it translates to local expenditures on other local goods and services. The survey results revealed the economic impact of these six independent hospitals totaled an estimated \$6.8 billion in economic output between 2019 and 2022 and contributed \$3.8 billion to Colorado's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Between 2019 and 2022, the economic contribution of Community Hospital on the state totaled an estimated \$971.4 million. Approximately 93.2% of the total economic contribution of Community Hospital was generated in rural counties between 2019 and 2022. In 2022, the economic contribution of Community Hospital on the state totaled \$284.8 million, the second highest economic contribution of the surveyed hospitals. This is composed of \$165.5 million in direct spending, \$38.1 million in indirect impact stemming from the supply chain, and \$81.1 million in induced impact related to spending by households that are impacted by operations.

Every \$1 spent directly within Community Hospital produces an overall economic impact of approximately \$1.72 in the state. Community Hospital directly employed 1,209 workers and supported an additional 725 (for a total of 1,934 jobs over the year) and generated \$141 million in labor income in the state in 2022. Approximately 92.8% of the total economic contribution of Community Hospital was generated in rural counties in 2022.

"Community Hospital has partnered with WHA since 1989 and was a founding member of WHA. We were eager to participate in this study to help illustrate the positive economic impact independent hospitals have in rural communities," said Chris Thomas, President and CEO at Community Hospital. "We will continue to champion high quality health care in our community and we are steadfast in our efforts to ensure patients have a choice as to where to receive health care," added Thomas.

To learn more about the comprehensive health care services offered at Community Hospital, please visit [www.YourCommunityHospital.com](http://www.YourCommunityHospital.com).

###