



FUTURE - DENVER VA MEDICAL CENTER - AURORA, COLORADO

PROJECT EAGLE UPDATE

May 2010

This month's Project Eagle Update is an edited reprint of an article written by Aurora Sentinel reporter Sara Castellanos. The article originally appeared on Thursday, April 22, 2010. It is reprinted here with permission and gratitude.

Funding for the new Veterans Affairs hospital that will be built at Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora was authorized by Congress on Wednesday, sealing the deal for the construction of the 1.1-million-square-foot facility, scheduled to open early in 2014.

Congress has authorized the use of \$800 million needed to fund the new hospital, which would replace the current VA hospital in Denver.

Colorado lawmakers had been waiting since September 2008 for Congress to approve the final \$493 million needed to complete the project, and some local veterans have been waiting for decades for a new hospital to materialize in the Denver metro area.

VA officials say they are pleased that total funding is now authorized for spending on the future 200-bed VA hospital that will be built on 31 acres.

"The leadership of the Eastern Colorado Health Care System is extremely excited about the approval of the funding," said VA Spokesman Jordan Schupbach. "We look forward to continue serving the veterans of this area with our new state-of-the-art facility."

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new VA hospital was held in August 2009, and VA officials say the facility could see an estimated 70,000 veterans in 2017.

Congress has already appropriated \$307.3 million through 2010, and Colorado legislators are requesting \$450.7 million to be appropriated in 2011. The remaining funds will be appropriated after 2011.

Respectfully,

Jordan Schupbach
Public Affairs Officer
VA ECHCS

