



THE CENTER
at Sierra Health Foundation



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Nearly \$3 Million Awarded in the San Joaquin Valley

Funding provided to 69 organizations working on policy and systems change to improve health

Sacramento and Merced – Today, The Center announced nearly \$3 million awarded to 69 organizations working on policy and systems change to improve health outcomes in the San Joaquin Valley. These San Joaquin Valley Health Fund (the Fund) partners are working in one or more of the nine counties of Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare that comprise the Valley. A full list of organizations that received funding through the Fund can be found [here](#).

This third round of funding includes 54 individual grants and four cluster grants, a grant category added for the first time, supported by 16 organizations. Individual grants will fund organizations working to address health disparities and factors that impact health, such as food security, air quality, clean drinking water, housing, health care, education, employment, immigrant rights, domestic violence, open space, neighborhood safety and other drivers of health outcomes.

Awarded cluster grants will complement the individual grant program by connecting groups of nonprofit partners committed to accelerating policy and systems changes to improve the health and well-being of vulnerable children and advance racial and health equity. Data in a report commissioned by the Fund and released last month, [California's San Joaquin Valley: A Region and Its Children Under Stress](#), shows eight of the San Joaquin Valley counties are among the top nine agricultural producers in the state, and seven of these same counties are in the top 10 counties with the highest child poverty rates. Additionally, given that one out of every four Valley children experiences food insecurity and they are much more likely to be exposed to pesticides, cluster grants will focus on protecting children from pesticides and immigrant communities with running themes of environmental justice and community mobilization.

Building off [Equity on the Mall](#) in February when more than 1,000 San Joaquin Valley residents rallied at the State Capitol to highlight what is needed for a “golden state for all,” the funded organizations met today to discuss the intersection of their work to build community mobilization. Participants heard from City of Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs as well as philanthropic leaders.

“We choose to fight, we choose to organize, we choose to make sure the Valley is just as golden as the rest of the state,” said Mayor Michael Tubbs, City of Stockton. “California cannot be great until the Valley is as fertile as the land that produces the fruits and vegetables the state enjoys.”

“The unfolding story is more about the promise of a California dream fulfilled than about the challenges the region has to overcome,” said Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO, The Center. “The region's leaders understand that a healthy and prosperous California requires a healthier and more prosperous Valley, and are committed to doing all that it will take to ensure the dream of an inclusive and equitable California is realized.”

Established in 2014, The Fund is a partnership of 69 nonprofit organizations, along with nine state and national foundations, who are jointly working to build a greater level of health equity in this important part of the state. The Fund is managed by The Center with funding from Sierra Health Foundation, The California Endowment, Rosenberg Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Blue Shield of

California Foundation, Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, Dignity Health and Tides Foundation. With the announcement of this funding, the Fund has made more than \$4.7 million in grant commitments to support these community organizations.

For more information about the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund, please visit [The Center's website](#).

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The Center works to promote health and racial equity in communities throughout California with local, state and national partners. www.shfcenter.org

Sierra Health Foundation forges new paths to promote health and racial equity in partnership with communities, organizations and leaders www.sierrahealth.org

The California Endowment is a private, statewide health foundation with a mission to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. www.calendow.org

The **Rosenberg Foundation** is a private philanthropy that believes that in order for democracy to thrive in our state and nation, every person in California must have fair and equitable opportunities to participate fully in the state's economic, social, and political life. www.rosenbergfound.org

The California Wellness Foundation is a private, independent foundation with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. Since its founding in 1992, the foundation has awarded 8,634 grants totaling more than \$986 million. www.calwellness.org

The **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit www.wkkf.org

Blue Shield of California Foundation works to improve the lives of all Californians, particularly the underserved, by making health care accessible, effective, and affordable, and by ending domestic violence. www.blueshieldcafoundation.org

Wallace H. Coulter Foundation is a private national foundation with a specific program that focuses on addressing critical issues affecting Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities. www.whcf.org

Dignity Health was founded in 1986 and works to create environments that meet each patient's physical, mental, and spiritual needs. Dignity Health believes this healing philosophy promotes the wellbeing of staff and the places they serve. Made up of more than 60,000 caregivers and staff who deliver excellent care to diverse communities in 21 states, Dignity Health is headquartered in San Francisco, is the fifth largest health system in the nation and the largest hospital provider in California. www.dignityhealth.org

Tides is a philanthropic partner and nonprofit accelerator dedicated to building a world of shared prosperity and social justice. Tides works at the nexus of funders, changemakers and policy to solve society's toughest problems. Tides impact solutions include philanthropic giving and grant making, impact investing, fiscal sponsorship for social ventures, collaborative workspaces and policy initiatives. Our extensive tools and know-how give our partners the freedom to hit the ground running and drive change faster than they can on their own. www.tides.org