

**NEWS RELEASE
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**Center for Health Program Management launches
\$1 million San Joaquin Valley Health Fund**

Sacramento and Merced, CA – California’s San Joaquin Valley is often referred to as the “food basket of the world” because of its rich soil and agricultural bounty. It also is home to several of the state’s fastest-growing cities and is faced with some of the state’s worst health and economic outcomes. Recognizing the valley’s regional challenges as well as its opportunities, the Center for Health Program Management today launched the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund, with initial investments totaling \$1.1 million from Sierra Health Foundation and The California Endowment.

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund aims to make the region a healthier place to live, work and prosper by strengthening communities and organizations to advance programs and policy changes that promote community health and health equity for all. Working with local leaders and funding partners, the Health Fund focuses on issues that impact health and quality of life, such as clean drinking water, air quality and land use, as well as education, employment, housing and safety.

“We created the Center for Health Program Management and opened an office in Merced last year with a vision to increase health equity in California’s underserved communities, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley,” said Sierra Health Foundation President and CEO Chet Hewitt. “We’re excited to launch the Health Fund and to join leaders in the region to support the good work they’ve undertaken to make the valley a healthy, prosperous place for all residents.”

“We are proud to be one of the early investors in the San Joaquin Valley Fund, designed to make health and opportunity happen for residents of this rapidly growing part of our state,” said Robert K. Ross, M.D., president and CEO, The California Endowment. “We encourage other funders to join us to help strengthen health equity in this region, which is critical to keeping California strong.”

As part of the pilot for the Health Fund launch, three San Joaquin Valley nonprofit organizations received grants totaling \$139,000 to support programs serving residents of San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Kings counties:

- **Catholic Charities of Stockton**, serving San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, received \$61,715 for the Sustainable Communities Coalition, which supports planning for healthier, more walkable and less vehicle-centric communities. Catholic Charities will expand the faith community's leadership into the land use and transportation planning arena so that fairness is a key consideration in the process.
- The **Community Foundation of San Joaquin** received \$25,000 and will use the funds to support the Reinvent South Stockton Coalition, which works to empower residents to transform their community by improving safety, education, housing, economic development and health. Reinvent South Stockton will explore what a city can accomplish through the creation of a shared vision based on community needs.
- **Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice** in Kings County received \$52,312 to support a health, environment and climate project in Kettleman City to stop hazardous waste landfill expansion, to bring clean drinking water to residents and to reduce harmful emissions. Greenaction's county-wide project will use education, outreach, organizing and advocacy to address environmental issues that have deep implications for the San Joaquin Valley.

More grant funds are available this year through the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund for nonprofit organizations and public agencies in the following eight counties: Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare. Grant awards will be up to \$20,000. Information about the funding opportunity and application materials are available at www.shfcenter.org/sjvhealthfund. Applications are due by Dec. 1, 2014, at noon.

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The **Center for Health Program Management** works to reduce health disparities in underserved communities. With commitment, creativity and collaboration, the Center promotes efforts to eradicate health inequities across California. www.shfcenter.org
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Sierra Health Foundation is a private philanthropy investing in and serving as a catalyst for ideas, partnerships and programs that improve health and quality of life in Northern California through convening, educating and grantmaking. www.sierrahealth.org
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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
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