



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

CONTACT: KARI IDA

(916) 922-4755 or kida@sierrahealth.org

\$3 Million to Improve Health and Well-Being of San Joaquin Valley Children

W.K. Kellogg Foundation partnership focuses on racial equity and community mobilization

Sacramento and Merced – Today, Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management announced an award of \$3 million over three years to the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to advance racial equity and community mobilization to improve the lives of children.

Funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation will be used over the course of three years to support San Joaquin Valley Health Fund grantmaking to accelerate system changes by supporting networks, regional policy agendas and coordinated action that increase the health and well-being of children and promote racial equity and social justice. This tremendous commitment will help spur community mobilization as well as help the Fund expand its funding partner network in which the goal is to build the capacity of at least 100 nonprofit partners to jointly advocate for better conditions for children and families across the Valley.

“Although California is often the picture of opportunity, many children living in the San Joaquin Valley face disparities that negatively impact their health,” said Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO, Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management. “Simply put, children should not face such egregious conditions as a lack of access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water, exposure to pesticide drift at their elementary schools, food insecurity while being surrounded by a billion dollar agricultural industry, and a school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately impacts children of color.”

“We are so excited to support the work of the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund,” said La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. “At the foundation, we believe that community mobilization and racial equity are critical to the success of all children and families. Mobilizing communities around solutions they create and working to remove barriers to opportunities can create the conditions for all children, the Valley and our nation to thrive.”

In recognition of the disparities and the need to engage in regional efforts, the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund was launched in the fall of 2014 with initial support from Sierra Health Foundation and The California Endowment. The Fund has evolved into a partnership of seven foundations: Sierra Health Foundation, The California Endowment, Rosenberg Foundation, The California Wellness Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation and Wallace H. Coulter Foundation. The Fund has invested more than \$1,660,000 in 58 nonprofit partners in the San Joaquin Valley committed to working in partnership to ensure equity and tackle these disparities.

For more information about the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund, please visit the Center for Health Program Management’s web site [here](#).

###

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. The Center manages the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund. www.shfcenter.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. www.wkkf.org

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

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 7,690 grants totaling more than \$912 million. www.calwellness.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