



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Awarded \$100,000 Grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to Address Health Inequities

Funding to support efforts to combat health disparities in the San Joaquin Valley

Sacramento and Merced – Today, Sierra Health Foundation Center for Health Program Management announced the award of \$100,000 from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support their community planning process in the San Joaquin Valley to address critical health inequities impacting young children, age 0 to 8. This funding will assist in strategic planning efforts for the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund.

“The San Joaquin Valley is one of the richest agricultural regions nationally, yet many of those who produce its bountiful harvests suffer deep inequities in their health and well-being, especially young children,” said Sierra Health Foundation Center for Health Program Management President and CEO Chet Hewitt. “With more than 40% of children in the Valley living in poverty, we are deeply concerned about the inequities they are experiencing now and the effect they are likely to have on their long-term health and well-being.”

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund was launched in the fall of 2014 to strengthen the capacity of communities and organizations in the Valley empowering them to create sustainable change and improve health outcomes. The fund is initially supported by Sierra Health Foundation, The California Endowment and the Rosenberg Foundation. Following the launch, a [San Joaquin Valley Health Fund Briefing Paper](#) and [Mapping Report](#) were released highlighting the Valley’s challenges and opportunities. Nearly \$630,000 has been granted to 30 organizations through the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund. More information and a full list of grantees can be found [here](#).

With the Kellogg Foundation’s support, the Center for Health Program Management will engage a number of San Joaquin Valley communities in developing an agenda for prevention-oriented investments in young children to create a future where all children have the opportunity to thrive. These efforts will include conducting an environmental scan, convening community stakeholders, and developing an investment strategy. Because of the region’s rich agricultural resources, and rampant poverty among farmworker families, particular attention will be paid to health outcomes and the intersection of access to healthy, affordable, and local and sustainably grown food.

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

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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

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 **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.