



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, April 4, 2016

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More than \$1 Million Awarded in the San Joaquin Valley

Funding provided to 58 organizations working to improve health and reduce disparities

Sacramento and Merced – Today, Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management announced more than \$1 million awarded to 58 organizations working to improve health and reduce health disparities in the San Joaquin Valley. This funding commitment follows nearly \$630,000 initially awarded to 30 organizations in 2015 and reflects a total investment of more than \$1,660,000 in the San Joaquin Valley. A full list of organizations receiving funding can be found [here](#).

The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund was launched in the fall of 2014 with initial support from Sierra Health Foundation and The California Endowment. Following the launch, a [San Joaquin Valley Health Fund Briefing Paper](#) and [Mapping Report](#) were released highlighting the Valley's challenges and opportunities. 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 goal of the Fund is to create a network of 100 organizations to advance policy and advocacy to address serious disparities in health, economic and social conditions. In December 2015, the Center for Health Program Management, which manages the Fund, received 105 proposals totaling more than \$2 million in requests in response to the second release of request for proposals for this fund. Proposals were received from all eight targeted San Joaquin Valley counties – Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare. Building a growing movement, of the 58 organizations, 28 include those who were funded in the first round. The proposals received reflect that San Joaquin Valley Health Fund partner organizations are addressing health disparities and factors that impact health, such as food security, air quality, clean drinking water, affordable housing, health care, education, employment, immigrant rights, domestic violence, open space, neighborhood safety and other drivers of health outcomes, through capacity building, systems change and community engagement.

The Fund is unique in focusing on a large geographic region with vulnerable populations while maintaining a commitment to create and support a learning community around health equity that concurrently strengthens the relationships amongst partners. As such, all awarded organizations will participate in grantee meetings and an initiative-wide evaluation. The first San Joaquin Valley Health Fund partner meeting of this expanded cohort will take place on April 14 in Visalia.

"This work is imperative if health equity is to be achieved in California. Social, environmental and economic indicators point to the San Joaquin Valley as being disproportionately burdened by poor health outcomes," said Chet Hewitt, President and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Program Management. "The commitment and dedication of our funding partners allows us to connect and support many important San Joaquin Valley organizations. Together, we are ensuring that essential community partners, with the most at stake in making the Valley healthier, are leading the way."

“It’s important that we address the needs of the San Joaquin Valley,” said Robert K. Ross, MD, President and CEO of The California Endowment. “The challenges in this region are not insurmountable, and the San Joaquin Health Fund represents another significant step toward achieving health equity in this largely under-resourced region.”

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. The Center manages the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund. 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 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

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

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