



THE CENTER
at Sierra Health Foundation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, April 12, 2019

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\$800,000 Awarded to Community Organizations in the San Joaquin Valley

Funding provided to 47 organizations working on policy and systems change to improve health

Sacramento and Fresno, Calif. – Today, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation announced \$800,000 awarded to 47 organizations working on policy and systems change for health and racial equity in the San Joaquin Valley. These San Joaquin Valley Health Fund community 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. Over the course of its five years, the fund has invested more than \$10 million into the San Joaquin Valley. A full list of organizations that received grants in this and previous rounds of funding can be found [here](#).

This fifth round of funding includes \$150,000 for 10 grants awarded to fund work specifically focused on Census 2020 advocacy, mapping and analysis. The 37 other advocacy and learning grants, totaling \$650,000, will fund organizations addressing health disparities and issues prioritized by the community: immigrant rights, health, housing, education, environmental justice, land use planning and other drivers of health outcomes.

“Recognizing the leadership and expertise of community organizations, the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund is proud to invest in these partners as part of a community-first model strengthening local movements organized around the issues that matter most to Valley residents,” said Chet P. Hewitt, President and CEO of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, which manages the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund. “The fund is intentionally engaged in census research and advocacy for a fair and complete count of Californians, driven by the conviction that local organizations, leaders and advocates know best how to strengthen and empower their communities.”

An essential element of the fund is opportunity for learning and collaboration between community and funding partners at events like [Equity on the Mall](#) on Mar. 6, when more than 2,000 San Joaquin Valley residents rallied at the State Capitol to highlight what is needed for a “golden state for all.” Funded organizations met on Apr. 11 in Fresno to continue to build a movement for health equity in the San Joaquin Valley.

“We are excited to be a community partner of the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund, benefiting not only from opportunities to increase our capacity to impact the needs of and opportunities for our community, but – together - build a movement for change,” said Naindeep Singh, Co-Founder of Jakara Movement.

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“We are proud to invest in Valley leadership, advocacy and transformative policy and systems change as one of 18 funders of the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund,” said Leslie Dorosin, Co-Executive Director of The Grove Foundation. “The fund has proven that coordinated commitment increases the impact of our investments, particularly when focused on community partners who have the on-the-ground knowledge and trusted community relationships to make change in the Valley.”

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About the San Joaquin Valley Health Fund and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation: The San Joaquin Valley Health Fund is managed by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and provides funding support for nearly 100 community partners from 18 state and national funders committed to the San Joaquin Valley: 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, Tides, Hellman Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Convergence Partnership, Health Net, The Grove Foundation, Werner-Kohnstamm Family Giving Fund, New Venture Fund, Sunlight Giving and Heising-Simons Foundation. Learn more at www.shfcenter.org/sjvhealthfund.

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