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Sierra Health Foundation Relaunches PopUps, Creating Safe Summer Break Spaces for Youth

Sierra Health Foundation and The Center grant awards to more than 20 community organizations for a total of \$127,500 to fill the gap in Summer 2022 youth activities

Sacramento, CA – Sierra Health Foundation and The Center today announced \$127,500 in grants to restore the summer 2022 youth PopUp events through August that the City of Sacramento effectively canceled. The Center will invest these funds in previous PopUp hosts to continue their work with youth as well as 2 new partners. Together, these community-based organizations will relaunch the successful Youth and Community PopUps program during the summer break – a time when youth are most vulnerable.

“Sierra Health Foundation and The Center are filling the gap in youth programming created by the City’s lack of transition planning and poor communication. Our young people need support now, so we’re not going to wait until September – we’re going to restart events this weekend. Sacramento’s nonprofits are always ready to stand in the gap for young people and we’re prepared to support and stand with them,” said **Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and The Center**. “While we appreciate the City’s commitment to still use funding allocated for PopUps for a different, new youth activity, the timeline leaves a significant gap in services.”

PopUps are safe, fun spaces for Sacramento youth and families to access resources from trusted community organizations and mentorship from trusted adults, a lauded component of the region’s youth violence prevention efforts. The City of Sacramento announced on July 1, 2022, an immediate shift of \$1.3 million in funding from Youth and Community PopUps to a new youth program that will launch in September. To ensure continuous support for area youth through the summer, Sierra Health Foundation will invest in PopUps community partners to host 48 events from July 29 to August 31.

Funded Youth and Community PopUps summer 2022 partners are:

- 21 Reasons
- Always Knocking
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Sacramento
- Brother 2 Brother
- Ceaze the Movement
- Greater Sacramento Urban League
- Hmong Youth and Parents United
- Hooked on Fishing
- Improve Your Tomorrow
- Lu Mien Community Services
- La Familia Counseling Center
- Latino Leadership Council
- Mutual Assistance Network
- Roberts Family Development Center
- Rose Family Creative Empowerment Center
- Sacramento LGBT Community Center
- Sacramento Village Advocates
- Self-Awareness and Recovery
- Sojourner Truth Museum
- Sol Collective
- South Sacramento Christian Center/Simmons Community Center

From December 2018 to June 2022, the PopUps collaborative of up to 24 community-based organizations hosted more than 2,200 in-person and virtual PopUp events with more than 100,000 attendees. These events were held in priority Sacramento neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by violence and poor health outcomes.

“We at the Latino Leadership Council are pleased that Youth and Community PopUps will continue this summer, as our Latinx communities have greatly benefitted from this work, said **Elisa Herrera, executive director of Latino Leadership Council**. “My hope is that the City will learn from this program that success requires not only sustained, adequate funding for youth programming but investment in organizational capacity building, partner training and networking that would strengthen our programs and increase youth access.”

In addition to organizing and leading PopUps events, many community partners hire youth interns to help plan and manage the events. Since its inception, PopUps have given 345 youth paid work experience as an important part of the program’s design.

For additional information about Youth and Community Popups, visit shfcenter.org/youth.

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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 and beyond. Learn more at sierrahealth.org.

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