CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH

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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH CREATES
GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND MEDI-CAL CAPACITY

In Merced County, 41,000 residents have gained Medi-Cal coverage through the

Affordable Care Act (ACA). This increased coverage enables better health for many, but has

also put new demands on provider capacity in an area already challenged by a shortage of health

care providers.

To ensure that their members are able to receive the care they need, the Central California

Alliance for Health (the Alliance), a non-profit Medi-Cal managed care health plan, has awarded

$10M in capacity-building grants since July 2015 to increase the number of health care providers

in Santa Cruz, Monterey and Merced counties. The goal of these investments is to relieve stress

on the health care system, reduce appointment wait times and unnecessary emergency room use,

and improve health outcomes for patients. "The Board and staff are pleased to partner with local

health care providers with capacity grants to improve access to much-needed services," said Alan

McKay, CEO of the Alliance.

In Merced County, grants from the Alliance will help 12 health care organizations recruit

23 new primary care, specialty care and mental health providers. The newly recruited primary

care providers will be able to serve at least 15,000 Medi-Cal patients. For example, Merced Lao

Family Community, Inc., a behavioral health organization based in Merced, received $75,000 to recruit a new Licensed Clinical Social Worker. "I am overwhelmingly appreciative of the Central California Alliance for Health's support of Merced Lao Family Community, Inc. by granting us this great funding opportunity. This funding will help our behavioral health program by recruiting a licensed clinician to serve our increasing clientele. With the growing number of clients that need assistance and the few clinicians at MLFC, this grant helps our organization tremendously," said Keith Vang, President of Merced Lao Family Community, Inc.

The Alliance will continue to make investments to build provider capacity, expand access to behavioral health and substance use disorder services, and support members with complex physical, psychological and social needs. For more information about the Alliance's Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program, please visit www.ccah-alliance.org/grantprogram.html.

Established in 1996, the Alliance was created to improve access to health care for lower income residents who often lacked a primary care medical home and frequently relied on the emergency room for all care. The Alliance links its members to primary care physicians and clinics that deliver services and preventive care, and arranges referrals to specialists. Today, over 4,700 health care providers participate in the Alliance's regional network and deliver cost-effective care to over 345,000 health plan members with improved quality and at a lower cost than the State-operated Medi-Cal program.

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