



For Immediate Release

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California Health Care Foundation, Partnership HealthPlan of California Award \$1.2 Million to Support Provider Training in Northern California

FAIRFIELD – Partnership HealthPlan of California is pleased to announce its collaboration with the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) to award \$1.2 million in program expansion funding to six provider sites in the Partnership network to grow their training capacity across Northern California.

The grantees are Open Door Community Health Centers in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, Shasta Community Health Center, WellSpace Health in Placer County, Petaluma Health Center in Sonoma County, Marin Community Clinics, and Aliados Health, serving Sonoma and neighboring counties.

The long-term goal of the funding is to expand Partnership’s primary care network that serves its Medi-Cal membership – low-income residents and patients with disabilities or other high needs. Specifically, the goal is to support postgraduate interprofessional education through fellowships, mentorship, and technical assistance training where current health care workers from different professions, such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners, train together so they ultimately will work well together to improve health outcomes. Grantees will also participate in a Community of Practice to share and co-create approaches, tools, and resources.

“Investing in fellowships and mentoring is critical for expanding and retaining our primary care workforce – especially in rural communities,” said Kathryn E. Phillips, associate director with the California Health Care Foundation. “When physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other clinicians have the opportunity to train together, they develop more trusting relationships and are better able to meet the complex needs of patients as an interprofessional team.”

“Partnership is grateful to CHCF for helping us support the growth of our provider network,” says Katherine Barresi, Partnership’s chief health services officer and acting CEO. “Investing in our future providers and ensuring that our vulnerable populations in all corners of our service area have access to care is so important to us and our mission.”

Partnership is the safety-net health plan for about 900,000 members in 24 Northern California counties, a largely rural service area. Recruitment challenges and demographic trends have resulted in an aging health care workforce. Additionally, statewide [primary care shortages](#) underscore the need for training at the local level. It has been shown that providers who train in rural areas or in a safety-net setting are more likely to practice in that setting after their training.

Open Door intends to use its funds to expand its Advanced Practice Clinician Residency Program, noting that “strengthening our residency and postgraduate training options ensures the availability of skilled health care professionals dedicated to serving our community for years to come.”

Other awardees will use the funding to focus on patients who experience significant disparities in health care access and health outcomes. For example, one program will focus on expanding its street medicine training program, two grantees will expand their training program to their rural and remote clinic locations, and others will recruit and support providers of color.

“To address the shortage of primary care providers and burnout, WellSpace will train and engage the next generation of primary care and specialized nurse practitioners and physician assistants (especially people of color) in fulfillment of helping vulnerable people in need of integrated comprehensive primary health care services,” the WellSpace team shared. Its program will offer advanced training in primary care psychiatry, women’s health, dentistry, pediatrics, and evidenced-based family medicine practices.

WellSpace’s training efforts and those of the other grantees address the goal of the funding effort by CHCF and Partnership – to increase programs that will attract, train, and retain a diverse workforce to serve in safety-net primary care settings.

About Partnership HealthPlan of California: Partnership is a community-based, safety-net health care organization that contracts with the state to administer Medi-Cal benefits. Partnership provides quality care to approximately 900,000 Medi-Cal members. Starting in Solano County in 1994, Partnership now serves 24 Northern California counties – Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Yolo, and Yuba. Learn more about Partnership at PartnershipHP.org.