

**Healthcare Workforce Development Division**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**\$193,000 IN FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS  
AWARDED FOR TRAINING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS IN COMMUNITY CLINICS**

SACRAMENTO – The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) in collaboration with the California Area Health Education Center and the California Primary Care Association has received a \$193,000 federal stimulus grant to increase the recruitment and retention of culturally competent, community-oriented health professionals in California’s community clinics and health centers.

The new program known, as Cal-SEARCH will provide training opportunities for 75 health professions students and residents statewide linked to preceptors, mentors, and community projects. Upon Cal-SEARCH completion, students and residents will receive a modest stipend. Clinics and health centers hosting students and residents will also receive a modest stipend for participating.

“Cal-SEARCH will provide tremendous opportunities for students and residents to increase their knowledge and awareness of practice opportunities in California’s community clinics and health centers. It will also aid in the recruitment of health workers who represent the community and can deliver culturally appropriate healthcare services,” said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle.

The \$193,000 grant was awarded to California by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration's National Health Service Corps with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) promotes healthcare accessibility through leadership in analyzing California's healthcare infrastructure, promoting a diverse and competent healthcare workforce, providing information about healthcare outcomes, assuring the safety of buildings used in providing healthcare, insuring loans to encourage the development of healthcare facilities, and facilitating development of sustained capacity for communities to address local healthcare issues. It is one of twelve departments in the California Health and Human Services Agency.

The California Area Health Education Center (AHEC), a thirty-six year old organization of partnerships, brings together community and academic interests to improve access to healthcare and decrease health disparities for all Californians. AHEC develops, with its partners, a population-based approach to health professions education with a special emphasis on community-based training.

The California Primary Care Association (CPCA) represents the interests of California community clinics and health centers and their patients. CPCA represents more than 800 not-for-profit community clinics and health centers (CCHCs) who provide comprehensive, quality healthcare services, particularly for low-income, uninsured and underserved Californians, who might otherwise not have access to healthcare.

More information about the Cal-SEARCH program, including the application, is available at <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/hwdd/Cal-SEARCH/>