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SANTA BARBARA AND SANTA CLARA PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS HONORED FOR THEIR HEALTH EQUITY PRACTICES
BY CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST HEALTH FOUNDATION

LOS ANGELES (December 4, 2019) – The California Endowment announced at a December 3rd ceremony in Oakland that the Santa Barbara and Santa Clara Public Health Departments were the recipients of the 2019 Advancing Health Equity Awards Honorary Exemplary Health Equity Practice Award for their community partnerships to help improve the health and well-being of underserved communities. Eight public health departments and health human service agencies from across California were honored by The Endowment at the December 3rd ceremony for their work that goes beyond the traditional scope of public health to positively impact the health of poor and marginalized communities.

“Bringing health equity to all Californians requires public health departments to think outside of traditional medical interventions and practices to reduce and eradicate health disparities experienced by California’s poor and marginalized communities,” said Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH, senior vice president, The California Endowment. “Both Santa Barbara and Santa Clara County’s Public Health Departments are to be commended for taking the initiative to partner with the community to advance health equity for underserved farmworkers in Santa Barbara and the underserved community of East San José.”

Launched in 2014 by The Endowment, the Advancing Health Equity Awards are meant to bring attention to and reward public health department practices that can inform and inspire the future work of others committed to improving health equity. This year’s awards ceremony at The California Endowment’s Oakland conference center featured a fireside chat with California’s Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris.

“Understanding the science of toxic stress is an important addition to all the work we are doing on health equity,” said California Surgeon General Nadine Burke Harris. “Because when we deploy all the science and resources that we have, including all of the resources of health care to be part of the solution, that gets us to achieving a health equity agenda faster and more effectively.”

A complete description of the award is below:

- Honorary Exemplary Health Equity Practice Award was given to the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department for its collaboration with the community organizing group Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) to ensure farm workers have access to safe and clean toilets, and potable water while working in the fields. Subsequently, SBCPHD convened a multi-sectoral work group that included CAUSE, labor groups, community-based organizations, California Rural Legal Assistance, UC Merced, farmworkers, and industry owners and representatives to jointly address these issues through data collection and policy recommendations. SBCPHD’s partnership with CAUSE provides a voice for farmworkers which will help advance health equity in the Santa Barbara County farmworker community.
- Honorary Exemplary Health Equity Practice Award was given to the County of Santa Clara Public Health Department for the PEACE Partnership. The partnership brings together 37 partners including, community residents, public health, healthcare organizations, schools, city and county agencies, and others to build a healthy, peaceful and empowered community by preventing and addressing violence and trauma in East San

José. By investing in people, places and opportunities, and rooting hope and healing at the center of activism for policy change CSCPHD believes the partnership can help transform the health, safety and resilience of the East San José community.

[Click here to view and download a photo of Paige Batson, deputy director of community health, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health and others accepting the award.](#)

Photo caption: from left: Paige Batson, deputy director of community health, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health, Van Do-Reynoso, director, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health and Jackie Ruiz, health educator, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health, pose with the Advancing Health Equity Award at a Dec. 3 ceremony in Oakland, CA. Photo courtesy of The California Endowment.

[Click here to view and download a photo of Sara Cody, health officer and public health director, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, and others accept the award.](#)

Photo caption: from left: Sara Cody, health officer and public health director, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Amber Siddle-Manas, racial and health equity planner, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Camille Llanes-Fontanilla, executive director, Somos Mayfair, Jacky Franco, East San Jose resident leader, Analilia Garcia, violence prevention manager, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, and Maritza Rodriguez, violence prevention manager, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, pose with their Advancing Health Equity Award at the Dec. 3 ceremony in Oakland, CA.

About The California Endowment

The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation, was established in 1996 to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. Headquartered in downtown Los Angeles, The Endowment has regional offices in Sacramento, Oakland, Fresno and San Diego, with program staff working throughout the state. The Endowment challenges the conventional wisdom that medical settings and individual choices are solely responsible for people's health. The Endowment believes that health happens in neighborhoods, schools, and with prevention. For more information, visit The Endowment's Web site at www.calendow.org.

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