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MEDIA CONTACT:

Jeff Okey

jokey@calendow.org

213-928-8622

STANISLAUS COUNTY HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY HONORED FOR ITS HEALTH EQUITY PRACTICES BY CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST HEALTH FOUNDATION

LOS ANGELES (December 5, 2019) – The California Endowment announced at a December 3rd ceremony in Oakland that the Stanislaus County Health Services Agency Public Health Division was the recipient of the [2019 Advancing Health Equity Awards](#) Emergent Health Equity Practice Award for its significant efforts and commitment to bring health equity to the forefront of public health. 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. “Stanislaus County public health division took a significant step forward on their path to achieving health equity through its ongoing efforts to educate leadership and staff on how lack of power drives health inequities in poor and marginalized communities.”

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:

- **Emergent Health Equity Practice Award** was given to the [Stanislaus County Health Services Agency Public Health Division](#) (SCHSAPHD) for its significant efforts and commitment to increase equity for underserved communities through the building of their internal infrastructure in order to bring equity to the forefront of their public health efforts. Significant resources were and continue to be invested in leadership development and staff training to reinforce efforts that focus on addressing power as the root cause of health inequities. Staff and leadership at all levels of the agency are involved and a Health and Racial Equity Committee was created and works robustly to ensure ongoing learning and staff training at all levels of SCHSAPHD. They are also embedding strategies to address equity and power imbalances into the [2020 Community Health Improvement Plan](#) in order to sustain health equity efforts across government agencies.

“We’ve put racial equity and health equity out into the forefront of our agency,” said Heather Duvall, Manager, Community Wellness & Prevention, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency. “Because of this, we’re seeing a deeper understanding among staff of the role that power imbalances have in the work that we’re doing.”

Click [here](#) to view and download a photo of Heather Duvall and others accepting the award.

Photo caption: from left: Setar Testo, project director, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Analisa Zamora, health educator, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Lola Aceves, administrative clerk, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Barbara Vassell, manager communicable disease, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Heather Duvall, manager, Community Wellness & Prevention, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, Lori Williams, public health director, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, and Sharrie Spouse, program coordinator, Stanislaus County Health Services Agency, pose with their Advancing Health Equity Award at a 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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