

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

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PACKARD FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1.9 MILLION GRANT TO BUOY SANTA CLARA COUNTY'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

Los Altos, California -- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation today announced a grant of \$1.9 million to Santa Clara Family Health Foundation to buoy Santa Clara County's Healthy Kids program. The \$1.9 million grant will be used to support premium subsidies for 1,840 children in the Healthy Kids program over the next year.

Between 500 and 800 children have enrolled in Healthy Kids each month since the program began in January. This success in enrolling children has resulted in the program nearly running out of funds. The Packard grant will allow the program to continue enrolling uninsured children.

"Santa Clara County has developed a unique model of providing universal health insurance coverage for children in working families, and the program, in its beginning stages now, deserves a chance to bloom," said Linda Baker, program officer at the Packard Foundation. "This grant will allow Healthy Kids to keep enrolling children. It will allow the program to show the impact of offering coverage to all children and serve as a model for the rest of the nation."

Healthy Kids, which is administered by the Santa Clara Family Health Plan, is one of three health insurance programs that make up the Santa Clara County Children's Health Initiative (CHI). The other two programs – Medi-Cal and Healthy Families – are state and federally-funded programs. Healthy Kids targets children who do not qualify for the government programs for a variety of reasons and can't afford health insurance coverage on their own.

"Together, these three programs provide universal insurance coverage for children in working families," said Baker. "By providing for premiums for Healthy Kids, we expect that more children will enroll in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families as well."

Since its creation less than a year ago, CHI has taken applications for over 23,500 children in health insurance programs -- far more than ever anticipated. As of the end of November 2001, 7,000 of those children were enrolled in Healthy Kids. But if demand continues, the program needs additional funding to be able to keep up, especially in the midst of an economic downturn, said Baker. Community leaders have said that the downturn could leave more children without insurance coverage, creating more of a need for the Children's Health Initiative than before.

"We are extremely grateful to the Packard Foundation for its partnership in this important program and this most recent grant," said Leona Butler, Chairperson of the Santa Clara Family Health Foundation. "The Packard Foundation has been there for the Children's Health Initiative since its inception. This grant is substantial and sets the pace for other foundations, corporations, and individuals to assist the Healthy Kids fund."

The \$1.9 million from Packard will be used to cover children after the funds from public sources, such as the County of Santa Clara, the City of San Jose and the Children and Families First Commission have been used.

The Foundation also expects to fund an evaluation of the Children's Health Initiative this coming year. "This program is being watched by decision makers across the country," said Eugene Lewit, Interim Co-Director of the Foundation's Children, Families and Communities program. "If the Children's Health Initiative is to serve as a model for the rest of the nation, the program needs to be carefully evaluated and the results of that evaluation should be widely disseminated."

In the past year, the Packard Foundation has provided over \$1 million in support to the Children's Health Initiative, including \$350,000 to help create Santa Clara Family Health Foundation, and \$650,000 to provide assistance to the partners in the CHI in making it work well for children. Donations to the Healthy Kids Fund can be made by going to www.healthykidsfund.org.

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation is a private family foundation created in 1964 by David Packard, co-founder of the Hewlett-Packard Company and Lucile Salter Packard. The Foundation provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the following broad program areas: conservation; population; science; children, families, and communities; arts; and organizational effectiveness and philanthropy. The Foundation makes grants at the national and international level, and also has a special focus on the Northern California counties of San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey.

Santa Clara Family Health Foundation was established in May 2000 by Santa Clara Family Health Plan. The Foundation was formed to distribute excess revenues realized by the Health Plan to community health programs, and to be a vehicle for seeking and receiving grant funds to support health services research and innovative health care programs for Santa Clara County residents.

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