

GIH BULLETIN

*Helping grantmakers
improve the health of all people*

SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

NEW GRANTS & PROGRAMS

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■ **Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation** (Eagan) awarded \$528,000 in grants to organizations across the state under its **Growing Up Healthy: Kids and Communities** and **Healthy Together: Creating Community with New Americans** initiatives. Among the grantees are: **Jewish Family & Children's Services of Minneapolis** – \$75,000 for the **Coordinated Health Services** program, which provides social adjustment and mental health outreach through a collaboration of three agencies that serve the Twin Cities' Russian-speaking immigrant population; **Ready 4 K** (St. Paul) – \$75,000 for the **Parent Empowerment Project** to increase parents' and care providers' knowledge about early childhood education and promote health awareness by training parent leaders from the Somali, American-Indian, Latino, African-American, and South East Asian communities in Minneapolis and St. Paul; **Project FINE** (Winona) – \$70,000 for **Diversity Youth Quest** to promote youth development among immigrant and refugee families in Winona County; **Hennepin Human Services and Public Health** (Minneapolis) – \$10,000 to connect organizations, institutions, and individuals in a community-led planning process to identify sustainable strategies to reduce health disparities and improve the health and quality of life in northwest Hennepin County; and **Open Door Health Center** (Mankato) – \$10,000 to build the organization's capacity to address mental health issues

among Latino and African immigrants. For more information, visit www.bcbsmn.foundation.org.

■ **Blue Shield of California Foundation** (San Francisco) awarded \$7.7 million in grants to 17 nonprofit groups across California. **University of California, San Francisco** will receive \$1.8 million to implement the second year of the foundation's signature program, **Clinic Leadership Institute**, through which up to 50 emerging community clinic leaders will be trained in leadership and management skills. A \$1.5 million grant to **California Health Care Safety Net Institute** (Oakland), a research and education resource for public hospitals, will support the development and implementation of a model program for electronic transmittal of prescriptions. **Contra Costa Health Services** (Martinez) will use a \$350,000 grant for a new chronic disease management system targeting diabetes, pediatric obesity, and mammogram screenings. The foundation awarded \$324,000 to the **California Women's Law Center** (Los Angeles) to fund an innovative program that trains rural school districts statewide to respond to the epidemic of teen dating violence and sexual abuse. Contact: Carri Cummings, 916.341.0472, carri@zieglerassociates.net.

■ **The California Endowment** (Los Angeles) announced a two-year, \$1 million grant to **Central Valley's Hmong Health Collaborative**, a group of 10 Hmong-serving community-based organizations that work together to improve access to culturally appropriate health care services in central California's

GIHNEWS

REGISTER FOR THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE SITE VISIT

Register by Friday, September 12 to attend the GIH site visit *The Children's Health Initiative: A Replicable Model for Improving Children's Access to Health Care* on September 25-26 in Milpitas, California. Participants will examine the Children's Health Initiative (CHI) model and will visit an enrollment site that has become a resource for families, caregivers, and outreach workers. For details, visit www.gih.org.

2008 GIH FALL FORUM NOVEMBER 20-21

Join GIH in Washington, DC, for the 2008 Fall Forum, the time each year when we focus on issues at the intersection of health policy and philanthropy. The meeting will feature two Issue Dialogues: *Effective Community Programs to Fight Health Disparities* and *Rural Health Care: Innovations in Policy and Practice*. It will also include the plenary session "Reflections on the 2008 Elections: What Do the Results Mean for Health and Health Care?" Visit the GIH Web site for more information.

also include literature – in Spanish and English – for parents and guardians on subjects such as food stamps, earned income tax credit, and other potential sources of support. Contact: Lynn Carolan, 407.644.2300, ext. 234, lcarolan@wphf.org.

SURVEYS, STUDIES & PUBLICATIONS

- **The Commonwealth Fund's** (New York, NY) **Commission on a High Performance Health System** released the *National Scorecard on U.S. Health System Performance, 2008*, which reports a significant decline in the nation's health care system. The scorecard used 37 core indicators to measure system performance; the system received a composite score of 65 out of a possible 100 points. When compared with results from the 2006 scorecard, access to health care for many Americans declined, with 42 percent of adults (75 million) ages 19 to 65 being underinsured or uninsured during some part or all of the year. In addition, the United States was ranked last among 19 industrialized nations in preventable mortality. Despite the overall lack of improvement, the survey did indicate some gains in health care quality. For more information, visit www.cmwf.org and click on "Publications."
- **W.K. Kellogg Foundation** (Battle Creek, MI), in partnership with the **Rasmuson Foundation** (Anchorage, AK); **Bethel Community Services Foundation Inc.** (AK); and **M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust** (Vancouver, WA), is funding a comprehensive evaluation of a model oral health program serving isolated Alaska Native communities. The model is being evaluated for effectiveness with a goal of improving the quality of services to children and families vulnerable to some of the highest levels of measured oral health disease in the country. The two-year study offers an opportunity to determine the quality of service provided by the **Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Dental Health Aide Therapist Program** (Anchorage, AK).

RTI International of Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, will conduct the evaluation. A final report of the results from this evaluation will be available in 2010. Contact: Dianne Price, 269.969.2079.

The George Washington University School for Public Health and Health Services (Washington, DC) released *Uninsured and Medicaid Patients' Access to Preventive Care: Comparison of Health Centers and Other Primary Care Providers*, a policy brief that examines the role of community health centers (CHCs) in providing preventive services to both Medicaid recipients and the uninsured by comparing CHCs' performance to other primary care practices. The brief reports on the results of a study indicating that CHCs outperform other primary care providers in the use of preventive care by both Medicaid and uninsured patients. Researchers observed differences of as much as 22 percent between the receipt of preventive care in CHC and non-CHC settings. The study is part of a series of health policy research briefs prepared by the **Geiger Gibson/RCHN Community Health Foundation Research Collaborative**. Specifically the analysis finds that health centers achieve significantly higher levels of preventive health care in key areas, including preventive screening for diabetes, hypertension, and breast and cervical cancer, all of which can significantly lower health care costs for a higher-risk population. The brief is available on-line at www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/departments/healthpolicy/ggprogram. Contact: Feygele Jacobs, RCHN Community Health Foundation, 212.246.1122, ext. 712.

Trust for America's Health (Washington, DC) released *Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities*, which reports the results of a study on community-based prevention efforts. Findings indicated that investing in community-based prevention saves money and lives. In reviewing evidence-based studies of proven

community-based disease prevention programs, researchers found that such programs can lead to improvements in a variety of areas, such as physical activity and nutrition, and can forge reductions in cases of type 2 diabetes, kidney disease, and stroke. Researchers concluded that an investment of \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save more than \$1.7 billion within five years in California alone, and \$16 billion annually nationwide within five years. The project was funded by the trust, as well as **The California Endowment** (Los Angeles), **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** (Princeton, NJ), **The New York Academy of Medicine** (NY), **Prevention Institute** (Oakland, CA), and **The Urban Institute** (Washington, DC). Contact: Liz Richardson, 202.223.9870, ext. 21, lrichardson@tfah.org.

MEETINGS

- **Nemours Health and Prevention Services** (NHPS) will host **The Third Nemours Conference on Child Health Promotion** October 23-24, 2008, in Wilmington, Delaware. This year's theme is **Advocacy, Policy and Progress in the Fight Against Childhood Obesity**. Attendees will learn what is being done in Delaware and across the country to create healthier environments for children and families. The conference will feature 40 speakers, including keynote speaker **Angela Glover Blackwell**, founder and CEO of PolicyLink. Topics for other sessions include: the economic impact of obesity, designing livable communities, creating successful partnerships and coalitions, and using marketing techniques to influence policy and behavior. Conference attendees are also invited to attend a special dinner on Thursday, October 23 with **Dan Heath**, author of *Made to Stick: Why Some Ideas Survive and Others Die* and columnist at *Fast Company* magazine. For more information, visit www.nemours.org/link/nhpsconf.