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Riverside County CARES Act Relief Funding for FQHCs and FQHC Look-Alikes

Riverside, CA – September 3, 2020 – The Riverside County Department of Public Health awarded the Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR) \$3,818,000.00 in CARES Act Relief funding to be distributed amongst all Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and FQHC Look-Alikes in the county. This generous amount was dispersed to 14 healthcare organizations representing 33 health center sites. As a result of this funding, all recipients will be able to further expand COVID-19 testing, purchase additional personal protective equipment (PPE), support their infection control practices, provide additional education and outreach, and provide additional training to health center staff to better serve their communities stretching from Riverside to Blythe. This funding will especially benefit underserved and uninsured populations in the county by allowing the clinics to expand testing and provide better outreach, targeting at-risk groups. “The collaboration between the various community partners has been critical to the success of the response to this pandemic,” said Kim Saruwatari, director of Riverside County Public Health. “The funding is a key part of the success, no doubt, but it is the organizations and the people within those groups, the compassion and dedication, that has made the difference.”

“Recognizing the seriousness of the COVID-19 situation, and the applicability of our specialized resources, Desert AIDS Project (DAP) established a dedicated COVID-19 Triage Clinic which allows our medical experts to see patients demonstrating COVID-19 symptoms in a quarantined space. Our COVID-19 response comes with a very high cost, both in terms of additional expenses and lost revenue. DAP expresses our appreciation for the Riverside County CARES Act funding administered by the Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR). This funding will allow for continuation of DAP’s COVID-19 Triage Clinic, personnel, rapid testing and treatment oversight.” – William D. VanHemert, MSW, Desert AIDS Project

“COVID-19 proved very costly for CHSI. We had to close some of our services and decrease our visits, not to mention the additional expenses we had to incur in PPE and supplies. In such a critical time, Riverside County CARES Act funding administered by the Community Health Association Inland Southern Region (CHAISR) is just like new blood in CHSI’s veins that will allow for not only continuation but also improvement and expansion of CHSI’s COVID-19 response across the county. This timely funding will enable us to provide more testing, education, training and PPE for our patients and staff alike. CHSI is truly appreciative of both Riverside County and CHAIRS for being there for us in this moment of need.” – Dr. Mahdi Ashrafian, MD, MBA, Community Health Systems, Inc.

About the Community Health Association Inland Southern Region

The Community Health Association is a champion for community-based health centers and clinics located in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. We provide services to support our diverse membership in providing access and quality health services to the most vulnerable communities.

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