



**SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
*An Endowment for Northern California*

## 2009 Responsive Grants Program awards

### **SAFETY-NET SERVICES**

#### **Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency (A-TCAA)**

**Rural: Amador County**

**\$25,000**

A-TCAA is a social services public entity helping people in Amador and Tuolumne counties attain self-sufficiency. Grant funding will allow the A-TCAA's Amador Shelter in Jackson to remain open 365 days in 2009, providing 160 homeless adults and children with meals and shelter for 60-day stays in a safe, home-like environment. Residents will receive clothing, medical and dental services, school enrollment, job and housing search guidance, benefits counseling and referrals to community resources.

#### **Asian Resources, Inc.**

**Urban: Sacramento County**

**\$25,000**

Asian Resources is committed to serving and responding to the needs of the limited-English, low-income, youth, immigrant and refugee communities in Sacramento by offering a broad spectrum of social services. Many community residents live in poverty and do not have vehicles or resources for transportation; as a result, they are not able to attain food, shelter or clothing services. With this funding, Asian Resources will provide 1,600 bus passes and 350 gas cards to clients seeking basic needs at partner agencies.

#### **California Emergency Foodlink**

**Urban: Sacramento County**

**\$25,000**

Working in partnership with the California Department of Social Services, California Emergency Foodlink is the operating arm of the Emergency Food Assistance Program, delivering USDA commodities to 50 agencies statewide. As the designated emergency food provider for Sacramento County, Foodlink also works with more than 150 food and shelter sites. With this grant, Foodlink plans to expand its Senior Brown Bag program to reach 500 additional seniors. It also will open two new Senior Brown Bag sites and increase the amount of whole grains, and fresh fruits and vegetables in each food bag.

### **Campus Life Connection/Collings Teen Center**

**Urban: Yolo County**

**\$25,000**

Collings Teen Center in West Sacramento offers a safe after-school environment, connecting teens with healthy adult role models and mentors, and providing them with skills and tools needed to attain a successful future. The center's After-School Food Program offers a free hot meal to low-income teens every weekday afternoon. Additional funding will help the center sustain the meal program, actively promote the program to reach more students, purchase food and improve the nutritional quality of meals. The center anticipates serving at least 18,000 free meals over a one-year period.

### **Catholic Charities of Stockton**

**Urban and Rural: San Joaquin County**

**\$25,000**

Catholic Charities provides services and advocacy for underserved groups, such as low-income families, those suffering from hunger and food insecurity, children in need of health care, immigrants needing assistance with work permits and citizenship, and the frail elderly. The nonprofit provides emergency food assistance for 300 to 350 people each week. This grant will provide matching funds to enable Catholic Charities to register up to 500 individuals/families for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps). The project will include aggressive outreach to eligible seniors and families.

### **Center for Fathers and Families**

**Urban: Sacramento County**

**\$25,000**

With a mission to strengthen families and build communities, the Center for Fathers and Families offers a network of programs and services that lead to family growth, enrichment and empowerment. Because of decreased donations in 2008, the center had to cut its Helping Hand program, which for 10 years provided short-term emergency aid to families involved in its programs. With this grant, the center will be able to continue the Helping Hand program, providing financial assistance for food and utility bills for 70 to 90 families.

### **Chico Community Shelter Partnership**

**Urban and Rural: Butte County**

**\$25,000**

The Chico Community Shelter Partnership provides shelter and related services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The partnership operates the Torres Shelter, the only emergency shelter in Chico, which serves men, women and families with children. The shelter will add an outreach component to identify at-risk clients in need of basic safety-net services by working more closely with other local service providers. Over the next 12 months, shelter staff will make direct contact with the homeless on the street or at a drop-in location to provide information about shelter options and safety-net services, with a goal of reaching 500 individuals and/or families.

**Community Action Partnership of Solano (CAP Solano)**  
**Urban and Rural: Solano County**  
**\$25,000**

Designated as a State of California Community Action Agency, CAP Solano provides low-income and homeless services, administers and monitors HUD contracts for housing, and works with a number of agencies that provide safety-net services. Because the county's three existing shelters typically are at capacity, grant funds will be used to pay for one- to five-night stays in hotels/motels for up to 100 homeless individuals/families. CAP Solano's agencies will communicate with the shelters regarding availability and place clients in hotels/motels until shelter space opens up.

**Community Housing and Shelter of Stanislaus County (CHSS)**  
**Urban and Rural: Stanislaus County**  
**\$25,000**

CHSS is a HUD-certified housing counseling agency that provides housing services for homeless families, low-income households, seniors, the mentally ill and women in recovery for drug and/or alcohol addictions. It is the only year-round shelter program in Stanislaus County, providing clients with motel vouchers for three to five nights, while helping them find permanent housing. This funding will allow CHSS to help an additional 63 households, or about 208 people, in need of temporary shelter.

**Enloe Hospital Foundation/Enloe Children's Health Center**  
**Urban and Rural: Butte County**  
**\$20,000**

The Enloe Children's Health Center is a collaborative effort between the pediatricians in Chico and Enloe Medical Center to meet the health care needs of children, regardless of the parents' ability to pay. Grant funds will be used for basic needs that surround a medical emergency, such as transportation, overnight accommodations, food, phone cards and vouchers for prescribed medications for families with children who need specialty care outside the Chico area. During 12 months, at least five families per month will receive help to support basic needs while obtaining health care for their children.

**Francis House of Sacramento**  
**Urban: Sacramento County**  
**\$20,000**

Francis House is a faith-based community providing life-changing opportunities through resource counseling, direct services, education, support groups, spiritual resources and referrals. Last year the nonprofit's Family Rescue program provided 1,275 nights in four motel rooms, along with food vouchers, transportation services and case management for 224 families. This grant will allow Francis House to rent another motel room for 52 additional families, and provide them with food vouchers, bus tickets and case management.

## **Glenn County Human Resource Agency**

**Rural: Glenn County**

**\$25,000**

This agency serves as a one-stop resource center for Glenn County, serving all vulnerable populations through Social Services and Community Action Services. Although Glenn County has a high unemployment rate and a large population of the working poor, the HRA offers the only support services for the homeless. With these grant funds, the HRA will increase the number of beds for homeless individuals and families by 1,200. Funds also will be used to increase food security for 300 people, and 150 will receive clothing, bus and taxi vouchers and help with health care costs.

## **Good News Rescue Mission**

**Urban and Rural: Shasta County**

**\$25,000**

In addition to operating the only overnight homeless shelter in the county, the Good News Rescue Mission provides meals for the homeless and needy, emergency groceries, clothing, household items, academic instruction, substance abuse recovery, work search assistance and savings assistance. To meet increased demand, the mission will expand its food services by about 5 percent or 11,500 meals in 2009, including cooked meals, bagged lunches and emergency groceries.

## **Gospel Center Rescue Mission**

**Urban: San Joaquin County**

**\$25,000**

In operation since 1940, the Gospel Center Rescue Mission provides food, clothing, shelter, education, counseling, substance abuse treatment, spiritual support and follow-up assistance. Shelter services include the Men's Emergency Lodge and the New Hope Family Shelter, which provide more than 31,000 shelter nights for men, women and children. Grant funds will be used to purchase three washers, laundry supplies, 50 mattresses and mattress covers, 85 pillows and pillowcases, and hygiene products. The shelter also will hire a security staff person to ensure the safety of shelter clients.

## **Haven Women's Center of Stanislaus**

**Urban and Rural: Stanislaus County**

**\$25,000**

Haven Women's Center in Modesto provides crisis response and supportive services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, who primarily are women and children. The center serves more than 3,000 people each year with emergency shelter, crisis lines, counseling, support groups, legal services, youth programs, education and case management. This grant will allow the center to continue uninterrupted shelter services by funding its crisis response specialists, who provide direct services for clients and crisis line coverage. The funding will cover about 400 of the center's expected 4,000 bed nights in 2009.

**Human Resources Council, Inc.**  
**(The Resource Connection of Amador and Calaveras Counties, Inc.)**  
**Rural: Calaveras County**  
**\$25,000**

The Human Resources Council provides services to children, families and communities in Amador and Calaveras counties through its Crisis Center, Food Bank, Head Start Program, Child Care Resources and WIC programs. The HRC will use grant funds to buy emergency food supplies for its new food bank in San Andreas, which is the only safety-net service available in Calaveras County. With this grant and resources from several organizations, such as the Calaveras Mariposa Community Action Agency, the Emergency Food Assistance Program and the California Association of Food Banks, the HRC plans to provide approximately 152,500 meals this year.

**Incorporated Senior Citizens of Sierra County**  
**Rural: Sierra County**  
**\$10,000**

This grassroots nonprofit corporation strives to serve the unmet needs of a growing number of vulnerable rural seniors. Through the Loyaltan Senior Center, the ISCSC provides underserved seniors with outreach and support services, access to medical services, transportation, congregate and in-home nutrition programs, community health support groups and senior health education. Sierra Health funds will be used to buy food to meet increased demand and to purchase a second freezer. This will allow the ISCSC to provide meals for approximately 200 at-risk seniors this year.

**Jamestown School District**  
**Rural: Tuolumne County**  
**\$25,000**

Located on the campus of Jamestown School, the Jamestown Family Resource Center works with families, school staff and community agencies to identify and serve children and families at risk due to economic hardship, abuse, neglect, substance abuse and other barriers to health. To address the community's high-priority needs, the center will allocate grant funds for its emergency food bank to serve 100 families; provide energy assistance for 20 families; assist with medical and dental needs, including transportation to appointments; and pay for continued weekly visits from a county health van to provide exams, treatment and referrals for students and community members.

**La Familia Counseling Center, Inc.**  
**Urban: Sacramento County**  
**\$25,000**

Located in South Sacramento, La Familia Counseling Center provides multicultural, multilingual services to at-risk youth and families. Of the eight Family Resource Centers in Sacramento County, La Familia serves the area with the largest population of residents living in poverty. This funding will allow the center to provide 30 to 40 individuals/families with energy assistance, housing assistance, food, urgent basic health care, training to upgrade skills and/or transportation. Average awards will be \$500 and will be in the form of food certificates, bus passes or checks sent directly to appropriate outside parties, such as utility companies.

**North Roseville Recreational Education and Creative Center**  
**Urban: Placer County**  
**\$25,000**

This community center provides educational, recreational and social services to children at no cost. Of the 150 children age 3 to 17 enrolled at the center, 90 percent are of Latino decent. The center also serves their families, offering referrals for medical care and utility and rental assistance. The center provides a hot dinner nightly for 30 to 40 children, and provides five to 20 food boxes for families each month. The center will use Sierra Health funds to help purchase this food and to hire a part-time social service advocate for 12 months to help 40 to 50 families.

**Oak Valley District Hospital Foundation**  
**Rural: Stanislaus County**  
**\$25,000**

The Family Support Network (FSN) in Oakdale is a nonprofit collaborative of the Oak Valley Hospital District. The collaborative was formed in 1993 with a grant from Sierra Health Foundation. FSN promotes a healthy environment for children and families by providing information, resources and support, including food and clothing distribution. This grant will allow FSN to expand its food program by purchasing a commercial-grade refrigerator-freezer and fresh meat, cheese and other healthy foods. FSN also will distribute 3,500 clothing bags, establish a utility assistance program for 15 to 20 families monthly, maintain parent support groups, provide shelter vouchers for three families monthly and distribute cash cards for local stores.

**Plumas Crisis Intervention and Resource Center**  
**Rural: Plumas County**  
**\$25,000**

This resource center is a safety-net provider of numerous countywide services and is a fiscal agent to local food banks and other organizations. The center provides rent assistance, energy assistance and case management for individuals and families, and is the only agency in Plumas County that offers access to emergency and transitional housing. This grant funding will provide 70 emergency motel shelter nights, rent assistance for 45 individuals/families, utility assistance for 40 individuals/families, food and needed items for 125 individuals/families, local medical transportation for 100 individuals and out-of-county medical transportation for 50.

**Project MANA**  
**Rural: Nevada and Placer counties**  
**\$25,000**

Project MANA is a hunger-relief agency serving four northern California and Nevada counties. In addition to emergency food distribution, the nonprofit focuses on education in an effort to create hunger-free communities. Clients are the working poor and 84 percent are Latino. With a goal of reducing the number of extra emergency food bag requests in addition to its weekly distribution, Project MANA will use this funding to supplement weekly bags with quality protein and carbohydrate foods, such as rice, beans, tuna, oatmeal, dry milk, pasta, stews, hardy soups and whole grains. At least 150 families will receive food bags per week for one year.

**Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services (SFBFS)****Urban: Sacramento County****\$25,000**

SFBFS offers a multitude of services to alleviate its clients' immediate challenges and move them toward self-sufficiency. In addition to basic human services such as emergency food, clothing and childcare supplies, SFBFS offers education services and provides referrals to local nonprofit partners. This grant will support the Mobile Food Program, which reaches the underserved populations of North Sacramento/Del Paso Heights through a free-market setting that distributes a five-day supply of quality groceries. Specifically, funds will help with operational costs, such as staffing, vehicle maintenance, food storage and supplies. SFBFS plans to increase the number of individuals impacted by the program from 2,000 to 3,200 each month.

**San Joaquin AIDS Foundation (SJAF)****Urban and Rural: San Joaquin County****\$25,000**

The San Joaquin AIDS Foundation provides information to the community and individuals regarding the prevention of HIV transmission, and offers services and information to people affected by HIV. Eighty-five percent of the foundation's clients have monthly incomes of less than \$850. SJAF will use these grant funds for its Emergency Client Services Fund, which provides emergency assistance for food, utilities, housing, transportation and medical needs. Specifically, this funding will allow SJAF to distribute food bags to 125 clients per month, provide utility assistance for 24 clients and offer counseling and training.

**San Joaquin County Human Services Agency****Urban: San Joaquin County****\$25,000**

The Human Services Agency serves children, adults, the elderly, the disabled, the uninsured/under-insured and the under-employed through programs such as CalWORKS, Child Welfare Services and Aging & Community Services. Sierra Health funds will be used to buy nutritious food, food bins for sorting and storage, and two chest freezers, allowing the HSA to provide meals for about 2,300 additional individuals and families through its Commodity Program.

**Scott Valley Focus, Inc.****Rural: Siskiyou County****\$25,000**

Scott Valley Focus in Fort Jones operates the Scott Valley Family Resource Center, which provides most of its programs and services, such as parent education classes, after-school enrichment, Healthy Families program and senior assistance. The FRC will use this grant funding to maintain, improve and extend the scope of its Senior Lunch program to provide 25 to 30 meals to low-income seniors and disabled adults four days a week.

**Second Harvest Food Bank of San Joaquin and Stanislaus County**  
**Urban and Rural: San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties**  
**\$25,000**

The Food Bank provides a centralized system for collecting and distributing food that reduces waste and alleviates hunger in the San Joaquin Valley. The organization has grown significantly over the years, and is on track to distribute more than six million pounds of groceries this year. The Food Bank will use this grant money to support its Food 4 Thought program, which improves the lives of 2,800 participating children and families; the Senior Brown Bag program, providing assistance to 2,700 seniors in San Joaquin County; and the Food Assistance Program, currently serving 220 nonprofit organizations in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

**Senior Gleaners, Inc.**  
**Urban and Rural: Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, Amador, Butte, El Dorado, Placer and Yolo counties**  
**\$20,000**

This all-volunteer organization of seniors works to feed the hungry in eight Northern California counties. Collecting more than 13 million pounds of food and household products from retail stores, food distributors and farmers each year, Senior Gleaners supplies about 133 charitable organizations that then distribute food and products to the needy. With no public funding, financial support comes from grants, direct-mail solicitation and a bingo operation. With this grant, Senior Gleaners plans to increase both its Basic Baby Needs and Elderly Needs projects by 50 percent this year.

**Short Term Emergency Aid Committee (STEAC)**  
**Urban and Rural: Yolo County**  
**\$25,000**

Located in Davis, STEAC provides immediate short-term assistance with basic necessities to Yolo County families and individuals with income below the poverty level. Programs include Homelessness Prevention, Road to Independence, Helping Hand for Families and Increasing Community Awareness. STEAC will use these grant funds to purchase food for 300 families, provide utility assistance for 28 families, help 40 residents find employment, provide rent assistance for 14 families and pay first month's rent to help 13 families get into long-term housing.

**Spare-a-Dime, dba Crossroads Ministries**  
**Rural: Lassen County**  
**\$25,000**

Crossroads Ministries works with local partners to provide safety-net services to families, migrant farm workers, parolees, veterans, victims of crime and individuals in crisis. Services include emergency and transitional shelter, homeless prevention services, education and access to health and supportive services. Although Crossroads Ministries supports five emergency and transitional housing units, there are no shelters for families or single parents with children. The nonprofit will use Sierra Health grant funds to pay for 200 emergency motel shelter nights for these clients, and will provide emergency utility assistance to 100 individuals and/or families.

**St. John's Shelter for Women and Children**  
**Urban: Sacramento County**  
**\$20,000**

St. John's Shelter is the only shelter program in Sacramento County focused on homeless women with children. Each day last year, an average of 112 women and children received help. The shelter offers a 90-day program that addresses the root causes of a client's homelessness. Along with food, shelter, clothing and supplies, St. John's requires its clients to develop a progress plan with weekly and monthly goals. The shelter will use this grant to contract with a local partner, The Effort, to hire a 30-hour-per-week drug and alcohol treatment/intervention counselor for one year to work with at least 240 homeless women. St. John's previously partnered with The Effort for this proven service, but county budget cuts forced The Effort to terminate the position.

**St. Mary's Interfaith Community Services**  
**Urban: San Joaquin County**  
**\$20,000**

St. Mary's provides food, clothing, medical and dental care, educational programs and general assistance to poor men, women and children in Stockton. Started in 1955 as a soup kitchen, the nonprofit now operates a school for homeless children, a medical clinic and dental clinic, a clothing and hygiene center, and a Head Start preschool program. They also have a kitchen and dining room with capacity for 400, and will serve an estimated 169,300 clients this year. Sierra Health funding will be used to buy meat and other nutritious food to help St. Mary's feed an additional 8,065 clients.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society, Roseville Area Conference, Inc.**  
**Urban: Placer County**  
**\$25,000**

In addition to its food locker, dining room, thrift store, medical clinic and a grocery delivery program for homebound seniors and the disabled, St. Vincent de Paul offers the New Beginnings transitional housing program for homeless families. In 2008, St. Vincent de Paul had 15 housing units, but had to cut back to 12 due to a drop in donations. The nonprofit will use this grant to expand its housing capacity back to 15 units, providing shelter for 50 to 70 people each night.

**Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Department**  
**Rural: Sutter and Yuba counties**  
**\$25,000**

The Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Department provides psychiatric services to Medi-Cal recipients and the indigent population in Sutter and Yuba counties. With a 16-bed inpatient unit and numerous services and outreach teams, the department served 3,650 people last year. Sierra Health funding will address four needs: emergency shelter and eviction prevention, emergency food distribution, utility bill assistance and bus passes for clients to get to their mental health appointments.

## **Tehama County Department of Social Services**

**Rural: Tehama County**

**\$25,000**

This department provides programs and services for low-income families and individuals in rural Tehama County. Services include food stamps, Medi-Cal, CalWORKS, Child Welfare, Foster Care, Adult Protective Services and In-Home Support Services.

Tehama County Social Services also operates as the Community Action Agency and Public Housing Authority. The department will distribute these funds equally to six community-based safety-net organizations: Corning Christian Assistance Agency, Alternatives to Violence, Salvation Army, Poor and the Homeless, Home Help for Hispanic Mothers and Tehama County Food Bank. Through these organizations, an estimated 1,000 families will receive food and shelter with this grant.

## **The Gardens Family Care Community Center, Inc.**

**Urban: Sacramento County**

**\$20,000**

The Gardens promotes healthy lives through education, prevention and intervention in South Sacramento. In addition to formal programs, such as the Healthy Eating Program, AIDS Awareness Project and the Youth Service Program, The Gardens partners with charitable organizations to help clients with safety-net needs. Grant money will be used to expand its non-perishable food distribution to provide one-month food allotments that will be distributed weekly to 50 families for six months. The Gardens also will buy a large refrigerator-freezer, as well as food, hygiene products and baby products.

## **Training, Employment and Community Help, Inc. (T.E.A.C.H.)**

**Rural: Modoc County**

**\$22,225**

Located in Alturas, T.E.A.C.H. is the only broad-based, multi-funded nonprofit in Modoc County, currently administering 64 local, state and federal grants. The nonprofit serves about 500 families each year through numerous programs. With harsh winters and limited public transportation, the incidence of homeless families becoming stranded in Modoc County with no resources is high. The closest homeless shelter is in Klamath Falls, Oregon, 100 miles to the north. To address this problem, T.E.A.C.H. will use this grant for motel vouchers for homeless families and transients, providing 525 shelter nights to 70 families, thereby increasing the number of families served from 34 to 104.

## **Volunteers of America**

**Urban: Sacramento County**

**\$25,000**

Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential. It began its ministry of service in Sacramento in 1911 with a soup kitchen and a chapel. Today, it operates 42 programs for women and children, the homeless, the mentally ill, the elderly and disabled, and people with drug and alcohol addictions. Because of economic challenges, Volunteers of America had to reduce its Winter Shelter program by 20 days. With these funds, the shelter will be able to continue operating through March 31, resulting in an additional 3,080 shelter bed nights for the homeless.

**WEAVE, Inc.**  
**Urban and Rural: Sacramento County**  
**\$25,000**

WEAVE provides crisis intervention and counseling services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The nonprofit is the only organization in Sacramento County providing the comprehensive continuum of services required by the State of California's Office of Emergency Services. This funding will be used to hire a Crisis Response Advocate who will work at WEAVE's counseling center and at its safe house. This person will answer an estimated 1,000 crisis line calls, provide at least 50 triage sessions and respond to at least 200 online assistance requests over the next year.

**Womens Empowerment**  
**Urban: Sacramento County**  
**\$25,000**

Womens Empowerment educates and empowers homeless women with the skills and confidence they need to get a job, create a healthy lifestyle and regain a home for themselves and their children. With the economic downturn, the nonprofit is experiencing a significant increase in the number of program graduates returning for help. Womens Empowerment will use this grant to start group counseling and emergency support for 80 graduates, and to create a clerical and customer service training program to help 60 graduates practice on-the-job skills. In addition, 250 formerly homeless women and their children will receive emergency services, including food, clothing and transportation assistance.

**Womenspace Unlimited South Lake Tahoe Women's Center**  
**Rural: El Dorado and Alpine counties**  
**\$24,999**

The South Lake Tahoe Women's Center is dedicated to improving the emotional, social and economic condition of women and families through intervention, prevention and treatment programs related to domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and basic needs. The center will use these funds to hire a part-time advocate to help meet the increased crisis needs of an estimated 125 clients. This will help the center make up for the 1.5 FTEs it lost due to cuts in state and federal grants this year. The center also will provide 3,636 meals and 36 nights of shelter in a motel for 45 women and children.