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Matt Cervantes has served as a Program Officer at Sierra Health Foundation since 2008. He manages the foundation's Youth Pathways to Health programming and grantmaking, including the Positive Youth Justice Initiative, the foundation's first statewide initiative, which seeks to improve the outcomes of young people in the juvenile justice system. Matt also leads the Minority-Led Organization Capacity Building Program, an effort of Sierra Health Foundation and The California Endowment, and manages the National Dialogue on Mental Health/Creating Community Solutions-Sacramento project. During his time at Sierra Health Foundation, Matt also has supported the groundbreaking Healthy Youth/Healthy Regions study of youth well-being in the nine-county California Capital Region, and managed the REACH Youth Development Program.

Matt brings a great deal of experience in youth development, policy and advocacy to his work at the foundation. During his public health career, he managed youth advocacy programs at the Yolo County Department of Health, the Great Valley Region of the American Cancer Society, the California Youth Advocacy Network and the Western States Affiliate of the American Heart Association.

Matt currently serves as Co-Chair of the Youth Transition Funders Group, a national network of funders whose mission is to help all youth make a successful transition to adulthood by age 25. Matt is also the Board Secretary for Asian Resources, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing multiple social services in the community, empowering everyone served to become a vital part of the changing, diverse society.

A California State University, Sacramento graduate in Social Work and a fellow of Sierra Health Foundation's Health Leadership Program and the Grantmakers In Health Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy, Matt has a passion for ensuring all young people have an opportunity to contribute to their communities.