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California Endowment Awards Major Grant to HARC

Six-Figure Funding to Build Local Health Research Agency's Capacity, Sustainability

(PALM DESERT, CA) – Impressed by its ground-breaking research on the collective health and wellness of Eastern Riverside County's population, the California Endowment has approved more than \$151,000 in funding for the Palm Desert-based Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC). The private, statewide health foundation earmarked the funds to help HARC develop resources and tools aimed at increasing community use of its data and customized health research services.

HARC management plans to utilize the California Endowment grant for a variety of initiatives, including the development of a web-based survey tool as well as qualitative research of local stakeholders across the Coachella Valley. Staff will gather data from the network of health-focused government agencies, nonprofit organizations and community interests to ultimately create a fee-for-service business model that will reduce HARC's dependence on outside revenue sources.

Funding from the grant will support a newly hired Associate Director, whose primary focus will be developing those fee-for-service opportunities. In addition, the individual will show data users how findings can be adapted to support initiatives such as program development, funding, organizational learning and advocacy. Ultimately, HARC hopes to conduct data training sessions for at least 100 representatives of community-based organizations and public agencies in the Coachella Valley.

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California Endowment Awards Major Grant to HARC – Page 2

“We are so grateful and pleased to have the support of the California Endowment,” said HARC Board President, Glen Grayman, MD. “Their commitment to organizational capacity building will provide HARC the resources necessary to reach more people with our services and, ultimately, help sustain our ability to deliver them.”

In making the contribution, the California Endowment joins with a host of other major funders and foundations in supporting HARC. Contributors include: California Wellness Foundation; Desert Healthcare District, Desert Oasis Medical Group, Desert Regional Medical Center, Eisenhower Medical Center, JFK Memorial Hospital, Regional Access Project, as well as the office of Riverside County Supervisor Roy Wilson.

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About HARC

Formed in 2006 by a consortium of more than 30 public and private healthcare agencies, the Health Assessment Resource Center (HARC) conducts a confidential community health status assessment in eastern Riverside County every 3 years to identify major health and quality of life issues. The nonprofit 501 ©3 organization is funded in part by contributions from community partners, as well as entities who contract with the agency for customized public health research. More information can be obtained by calling HARC at (760) 601-3663, or visiting the organization’s website at www.harcddata.org.

About The California Endowment

The California Endowment, a private, statewide health foundation, was established in 1996 to expand access to affordable, quality health care for underserved individuals and communities, and to promote fundamental improvements in the health status of all Californians. The Endowment makes grants to organizations and institutions that directly benefit the health and well-being of the people of California. To date, The Endowment has awarded nearly 11,000 grants across California totaling more than \$1.9 billion. For more information, visit The Endowment’s Web site at www.calendow.org.