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KAISER PERMANENTE ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN GRANTS FOCUSING ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) Chosen to Educate and Connect At-Risk Immigrant Individuals and Families to Mental Health Services

LOS ANGELES, Calif., – Dec. 7, 2018 – [Kaiser Permanente Southern California](#) announced a \$6 million, five-year Community Mental Health and Wellness Initiative with an immediate Local Partnership Grant (LPG) allocation of \$1.28 million to combat and improve access to mental health services. The initial grant allocation is funding a group of two-year grants to support 16 nonprofit community partners working to improve mental health and wellness in under-resourced Southern California communities.

“Understanding the challenges that people face by dealing with the symptoms and disabilities caused by mental illness is a priority at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center,” says Will Grice, senior vice president and area manager, Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. “It is imperative we ensure proper care for all individuals and work to remove stigmas associated with mental health. To accomplish this goal, we are proud to fund and partner with trusted nonprofit organizations, such as the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, who will work to extend resources to at-risk populations, like our immigrant community that is often fearful of accessing mental and behavioral health services.”

In Kaiser Permanente’s continued efforts to improve mental health and wellness in the communities it serves, it once again identified mental and behavioral health as a top community health initiative. The grant will award approximately \$80,000 to each of the 16 nonprofit community partners to aid these organizations that are representing the clinical, social service, advocacy, public, and primary and secondary school sector in Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. These organizations’ efforts include:

- Improving access and connection to care to mental health services in clinical and community settings.
- Enhancing and building the current and emerging mental health workforce to meet community mental health needs.
- Reducing self, public, and institutional mental health stigma and boosting resilience in individuals, communities, and organizations.

Every day, millions of adults and youth with mental health issues struggle in silence, either because they cannot get the appropriate care or are too ashamed to seek help. Mental health disorders are among the most common health conditions faced by Americans and Californians, with nearly one in five American adults experiencing mental illness and one half of all chronic mental illness beginning by age 14.

Kaiser Permanente’s mental health and wellness initiative seeks to address these issues in communities through improving equitable access to high-quality care and reducing the effects of mental health stigma. Some of the grantees supported by this funding have found unique ways to address mental health through a grassroots approach directly into at-risk communities. An example can be seen through one of Kaiser Permanente’s mental health grant recipients, the [Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles \(CHIRLA\)](#), a highly respected and entrusted immigrant-serving organization helping Los Angeles’ diverse immigrant communities thrive and achieve their desired success as fully contributing members of our society.

Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center is supporting CHIRLA in providing culturally-competent mental health training to CHIRLA’s staff, members and community navigators. Additionally, through this grant CHIRLA will offer bilingual mental health educational materials as well as provide one-on-one consultations and referrals to mental and behavioral health services to 10,000 Latino immigrant families in Los Angeles.

“The stigma of mental health is a powerful barrier preventing Latino immigrant families from accessing services,” states Angelica Salas, Executive Director of CHIRLA. “This partnership will allow us to challenge this stigma and allow Latinos and immigrants the ability to seek proper care without the fear of being negatively labeled, or in some cases, the fear of compromising their families’ future in our country. CHIRLA understands that delayed access to mental health services can negatively impact our economy and, in particular, our nation's health. Kaiser Permanente’s support in this area is more critical than ever.”

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) reports that overall, the Latino community does not talk about mental health issues; many Latinos do not seek treatment because they do not recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health conditions or know where to find help. NAMI concludes that lack of information also increases the stigma associated with mental health issues among the Latino community and cautions that without treatment, certain mental health conditions can worsen and become disabling.

CHIRLA’s strategy is to engage staff and members who share language and similar immigrant backgrounds so they may provide culturally-competent information to help Latino immigrants break down stigma to identify mental health disorders and explain the benefits of utilizing these vital services.

The complete list of all 16 community grant recipients of the Local Partnership Grant are:

1. Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
2. San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
3. Mental Health of America of Los Angeles (MHALA)
4. National Alliance for Mental Illness Orange County
5. Cajon Valley Union School District
6. The Achievable Foundation
7. Jewish Family Service of the Desert
8. Foothill Family Services
9. California State University, Bakersfield
10. California State University, San Bernardino
11. Family Service Association
12. Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.
13. Riverside University Health System Foundation
14. Mental Health of America of Los Angeles – Antelope Valley
15. Coalition for Humane Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles
16. Village Family Services (VFS)

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To learn more about Kaiser Permanente's commitment to Mental Health, [click here](#).

About Kaiser Permanente

Kaiser Permanente is committed to helping shape the future of health care. We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and not-for-profit health plans. Founded in 1945, Kaiser Permanente has a mission to provide high-quality, affordable health care services and to improve the health of our members and the communities we serve. We currently serve more than 12.2 million members in eight states and the District of Columbia. Care for members and patients is focused on their total health and guided by their personal Permanente Medical Group physicians, specialists and team of caregivers. Our expert and caring medical teams are empowered and supported by industry-leading technology advances and tools for health promotion, disease prevention, state-of-the-art care delivery and world-class chronic disease

management. Kaiser Permanente is dedicated to care innovations, clinical research, health education and the support of community health. For more information, go to: kp.org/share.