

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**KAISER PERMANENTE ANNOUNCES \$6 MILLION IN NEW GRANTS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOCUSING ON MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

SANTA ANA Calif., – Dec. 3, 2018 – [Kaiser Permanente Southern California](#) announced a \$6 million, five-year Community Mental Health and Wellness Initiative with an immediate Local Partnership Grant (LPG) grant 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.

“The prevalence of mental illness is significant and growing in Southern California and across the country,” said John Yamamoto, vice president, Community Health & Government Relations, Kaiser Foundation Hospitals/Health Plan. “For adults and youths affected by mental illness, the effects can be devastating, increasing their risk for serious medical conditions, diminished quality of life, and even suicide. These grants are designed to address the mental health needs within our most under-resourced communities by funding trusted nonprofit organizations that serve these areas and populations.”

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 youths 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

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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, **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Orange County**, providing an all-encompassing stigma-reducing and mental health education program designed to reach all facets of middle and high school communities: administration, faculty, parents, and student body.

“NAMI Orange County is honored to join Kaiser Permanente's effort to provide education, awareness, and an opportunity for intervention at high schools throughout Orange County,” said Carla DiCandia, executive director, NAMI OC. “Through this grant opportunity, we will be able to normalize conversations about mental health in schools and in homes, educate school staff and administrators, as well as accompany the many families and students who are living with mental illness on their journey to wellness.”

NAMI Orange County's proposed education and support programs will focus on mental illness prevention and early intervention, along with mental illness stigma reduction. Bringing education, understanding, and hope to individual school communities will achieve a much-needed benefit throughout Orange County.

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

1. Charles 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 Human Immigrants Rights of Los Angeles
16. Village Family Services (VFS)

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 and kp.org/orangecounty.