

Sierra Health Foundation commits \$1 million for safety-net services

In response to the economic downturn and resulting demand for basic human needs, such as food, clothing and shelter, Sierra Health Foundation has committed \$1 million for safety-net services through its Responsive Grants Program. Qualifying nonprofit organizations and public agencies that provide these services and need assistance may apply for up to \$25,000 by noon on Jan. 15. Grant awards will be announced in February.

To be eligible, nonprofit organizations must serve residents in [Sierra Health's 26-county funding region](#) and provide emergency safety-net services, such as food, clothing, shelter and associated physical and mental health care. Of the \$1 million in funding, a minimum of 30 percent is available to nonprofits and public agencies serving residents in rural areas.

“We intentionally built flexibility into our Responsive Grants Program to enable the foundation to quickly respond to changes in our region, and our decision today allows us to make good on this commitment,” stated Carol Whiteside, chair of Sierra Health’s board of directors.

“With people in our region being turned away from shelters and food banks, we knew we had to respond,” said Sierra Health President Chet Hewitt. “We can’t resolve the level of need out there, but we will do our part to mitigate the challenges people, particularly families, are facing.”

Sierra Health will hold a proposers’ conference call on Jan. 8 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Although participation on the call is not required to apply for a grant, it is encouraged. [Register for the proposers’ conference call online.](#)

Download application materials on [Sierra Health’s Web site.](#)

Sierra Health’s Responsive Grants Program began in 2008 with a goal to promote health and well-being in Northern California communities by asking nonprofit organizations and public agencies to explain their community needs and how a grant from Sierra Health could help address them. In the first funding cycle, Sierra Health awarded \$1.2 million for 31 projects serving 23 counties, with 35 percent awarded for projects serving rural areas. See a list of organizations and projects selected for funding on [Sierra Health’s Web site.](#)