

GRANTMAKER FOCUS



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Alliance Healthcare Foundation

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In the early 1980s, representatives of major stakeholders in the health care marketplace founded the San Diego Community Healthcare Alliance to contain spiraling health care costs. This group, which included hospitals, physicians, health care systems, insurance companies, employers, and labor unions, established the Community Care Network (CCN) and offered the services of selected providers at discounted rates to health plans, insurance carriers, and other purchasers of health services. In 1988, the Community Healthcare Alliance created Alliance Healthcare Foundation (AHF) to promote health care access for underserved individuals in California's San Diego region. When CCN was sold to Value Health in 1994, AHF acquired an \$83 million endowment, which continues to support its grantmaking today.

AHF works to advance health and wellness for the most vulnerable—the poor, working poor, children, and homeless in San Diego and Imperial counties. In fulfilling this mission, AHF looks for ways to reduce costs, increase capacity, and improve quality in the services and organizations that advance health and wellness. San Diego and Imperial counties—the southernmost counties in California—have somewhat different needs. Imperial County, with 180,000 residents, is 82.3 percent Latino and has the state's highest unemployment rate at 25 percent. The county also has the highest percentage of asthmatic residents and, accordingly, the highest rate of asthma-related hospital visits. Further, 31 percent of its residents are food insecure. In contrast, San Diego County's unemployment rate is below 5 percent, and chronic disease places the greatest economic burden on the health system. A majority of its 3.2 million residents are Latino, and 38 percent of the county's low-income households are food insecure.

Program Information: AHF envisions a San Diego and Imperial county region where equitable health resources lead to universal health and well-being, with special emphasis on the medically underserved. The foundation provides collaborative grantmaking, advocacy, and education. All AHF grants support efforts to advance health and wellness in the broadest sense. The three different types of grants foster innovation; provide core operating support; and cover the immediate, one-time needs of an organization. The foundation recently started providing program-related investments to enhance financial strength and cash flow for local organizations to allow them to strengthen their position to provide more services to more of their constituents.

► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$74 million (FY 2015)

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$3.3 million (FY 2015)

► Special Initiatives and/or Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **Innovation Initiative** – This initiative supports innovative efforts to make system-level change that will impact the health and wellness of local communities. AHF looks for projects that will reduce costs, increase capacity, and/or improve quality in ways that will change the current system (\$1 million through implementation by year 3).
- **Mission Support** – These grants provide core operating support for organizations in San Diego and Imperial counties that align with AHF's mission to advance health and wellness. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$100,000 (\$1 million annually).
- **Responsive Grants** – Year-round grants are responsive to the immediate needs of the grantee. Whether it is a breakdown of vital equipment or unanticipated funding gaps, these grants of up to \$25,000 can be deployed quickly. Responsive grant funds may also be used for organizational and leadership development, as well as unique cofunding opportunities that may arise with the foundation's colleagues (\$250,000 annually).

Challenges for the Future: *“As we continue to explore the impact of our funds in the community, we are constantly confronted with the challenge of measuring that impact on advancing health and wellness. We have robust discussions about what we need from organizations and explore the role of philanthropy in effecting that change. Improvements in data collection, the use of data as a management tool, and how data can tell the story for the organization in powerful ways are just some of the areas that are a part of the impact discussion. We look forward to working with our community to understand the challenges and successes they face, as well as working together to develop solutions.”*

Nancy L. Sasaki
Executive Director

