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The California Wellness Foundation

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The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF) is a private, independent foundation established in 1992 as a result of Health Net's conversion from nonprofit to for-profit status. TCWF's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education, and disease prevention. Since its inception, the foundation has awarded 7,338 grants totaling more than \$890 million.

Program Information: TCWF pursues the following goals through grantmaking: to address health needs of traditionally underserved populations; to support and strengthen nonprofits that seek to improve the health of underserved populations; to recognize and encourage leaders who work to increase health and wellness within their communities; and to inform policymakers and opinion leaders about important wellness and health care issues.

For the past 13 years, the foundation has prioritized eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women's health, and work and health. It also responds to timely issues and special projects outside the funding priorities. The foundation is in the process of completing a strategic plan for the next grants program, to be announced later in the year.

► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$939.8 million (FY 2013)
Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$38.2 million (FY 2013)

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

- **Health Access Foundation** – Despite the passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act, an estimated 3 to 4 million individuals will be left without health care coverage. This grant supports a new collaborative effort among six California organizations to undertake policy development, organizing, and advocacy efforts to advance the goal of providing a medical home for those who will remain uninsured (\$450,000 over 18 months).
- **Advancement Project** – This grant subsidizes the expansion of training to nonprofits statewide on using the data and mapping tools of the Healthy City program. Organizations are trained to use participatory research tools, create maps that illustrate community conditions and health inequities, and engage residents to use data for communications and advocacy to improve health (\$100,000 over two years).
- **Case Youth Shelter (CYS)** – Through core operating support, TCWF helps sustain crisis shelter-based services for

homeless and runaway youth, ages 12 to 17, in and near southern Los Angeles County. These young people often come to the agency to escape physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, and/or parental drug use, neglect, or rejection. CYS provides basic needs; academic tutoring; and one-on-one, teen group, and family counseling, with family reunification as a primary goal. (\$100,000 over two years).

- **University of California at Riverside, School of Medicine** – Funding supports **FastStart**, an intensive summer residential program that provides academic and social support services for minority students pursuing careers in the health professions. The program provides bridge academic enrichment and support services to help students from disadvantaged backgrounds complete their bachelor's degrees (\$50,000 for one year).
- **Cornerstone Project** – This grant supports the **Reinvent Stockton Re-entry Project**, which works to reduce recidivism among formerly incarcerated young adults in Stockton. The program has a temporary employment agency, which hires formerly incarcerated individuals who gain workforce experience and life skills training. A number of local businesses have successfully contracted with the agency, making it a model program (\$200,000 over two years).

Challenge for the Future: *“As the foundation looks to the future, we will be streamlining our program focus areas to better leverage our knowledge and resources. While some areas will change, three things remain the same: the foundation will continue to allocate its resources to the most underserved communities; most of our grantmaking will continue to be in response to needs identified by our community partners; and the majority of funds will be earmarked for general operating support. We will continue to be committed to increasing access to health care, strengthening the safety net, helping the uninsured gain coverage, and supporting efforts that improve health and wellness for underserved youth and families.”*

Judy Belk
President and CEO

