

# GRANTMAKER FOCUS

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IN  
HEALTH

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## Kaiser Permanente

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Kaiser Permanente began at the height of the Great Depression with a single surgeon, Dr. Sidney Garfield, and a 12-bed hospital in the Mojave Desert. Since then, Kaiser Permanente has expanded to serve nearly 9 million members in California, Colorado, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Ohio, and several states in the mid-Atlantic and Northwest regions.

**Program Information:** While most of Kaiser Permanente's grants support the eight regions where it operates, a number of grants are made for programs that have a national impact on health and health policy. Through its Community Health Initiative, Kaiser Permanente works with community-based organizations to design, deliver, and sustain long-term programs in improving the conditions of their neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools so that they promote good health. The Safety Net Partnerships initiative focuses on building and maintaining partnerships with community health centers, local health departments, and public hospitals. Through the Care and Coverage for Low Income People focus area, Kaiser Permanente creates and supports programs that lower financial barriers so the uninsured and underinsured gain access to quality care. Lastly, Kaiser Permanente aims to improve health care by sharing knowledge about the evidence base for care and health through its Developing and Disseminating Knowledge focus area.

### ► Financial Information:

Total Assets: \$47.9 billion (operating revenue – FY 2011)

Direct Community Benefit Investment: \$1.8 billion

Amount Dedicated to Health-Related Grants: \$68 million (FY 2011)

### ► Special Initiatives and Representative Health and Human Services Grants:

- **The Weight of the Nation** – Kaiser Permanente made a grant to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to support the educational materials and community outreach strategy and implementation associated with "The Weight of the Nation," a public health campaign and HBO's documentary films series. The project was developed in partnership with the IOM, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, Home Box Office Documentary Films, and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation. Receive a screening kit and discussion guide at [theweightofthenation.hbo.com/](http://theweightofthenation.hbo.com/) (\$5 million).
- **HEAL** – Kaiser Permanente leads healthy eating, active living (HEAL) collaboratives across the country. This community-based approach to wellness seeks to make environmental and policy changes, individual behavior changes, increased community engagement, and community ownership. Kaiser Permanente approved more than \$50 million across the country since 2004 to support HEAL (\$17 million for one year).

- **Healthy Eating in Hard Times** – This initiative seeks to ensure that food insecure families have access to healthy food, not just calories. In 2011 Kaiser Permanente funded two grants to increase access to healthy foods for low-income and underserved individuals. Since 2005 Kaiser Permanente has invested more than \$4.5 million in this initiative (\$1.5 million for one year).
- **Safety Net Support** – In 2011 Kaiser Permanente approved 424 grants to support the nation's safety net institutions. Kaiser Permanente helps strengthen the capacity of community health centers, public hospitals, and local health departments to promote access to high-quality care for the uninsured and underserved vulnerable populations (\$33 million for one year).
- **Measuring Clinical Effectiveness to Improve and Health Care** – A grant to the IOM Roundtable on Science and Innovation in Health Care will help bring together experts from around the nation with a goal of transforming the way evidence on clinical effectiveness is generated and used to improve health and health care (\$375,000 for one year).

### Most Pressing Health and Human Services Issues:

*"Obesity, and its related health consequences, is a grave threat to public health in America. We are consigning an entire generation to die younger and sicker than their parents. Carrying extra weight increases the risk for premature death and is a primary risk factor for type-2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and stroke, and certain forms of cancer. These chronic conditions consume 80 percent of health care costs in the United States, decreasing productivity and diminishing quality of life. There is no single solution to combating this epidemic. Kaiser Permanente is committed to addressing it through clinical, behavioral, community, and environmental strategies that we call Total Health. We are proud to be a part of national campaigns designed to reduce obesity and obesity-related illnesses: The Weight of the Nation, a community-oriented public health campaign, and Every Body Walk!, which promotes the health benefits of walking."*

### Raymond J. Baxter, Ph.D.

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