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Alameda County Awards Approximately \$4.13M to Expand Community Outreach and Resource Navigation

In continuation of the work being conducted by coalitions to expand COVID-19 vaccine access and connects communities to resources

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – On May 16th, 2023, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors retroactively approved awards totaling approximately \$4.13 million to three community-led coalitions to conduct multilingual grassroots outreach, leverage social networks, link Alameda County residents to health and mental health services, ensure universal access to the internet, host and hold community events and provide emergency financial assistance. The two-year contract retroactively began in March 2023 and operates through February 2025.

The three coalitions that received awards include: Cal-PEP with Lifelong Medical Care, The HIV Education and Prevention Project of Alameda County (HEPPAC), Women Organized to Respond to Life Threatening Diseases (WORLD); Sister to Sister 2 Incorporated (dba Serenity House) with Global Communication Education & Arts (GCEA), Owing My Own Truth (OMOT); and Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance (TVNPA) with Open Heart Kitchen, Tri-Valley Haven, Axis Medical, and City-Serve.

This initiative expands Alameda County Health Care Services Agency’s Public Health Department’s efforts to support COVID-19 recovery and resilience in partnerships with Community Coalitions. The coalition model was developed by the Alameda County Public Health Department and builds on former Supervisor Wilma Chan’s work to prioritize the health of underserved communities in Alameda County.

“I remain proud of the Board’s decision to invest in the Community Coalitions, which provide a great service to residents across the county, especially those most impacted by COVID-19. I am excited to see the coalitions expanding and am hopeful that in partnership with the Public Health Department, they will keep us moving forward, stronger and more resilient,” said Nate Miley, President of the Board of Supervisors for Alameda County.

The Sister to Sister 2 Incorporated and Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance Coalitions will join the 12 existing Community Coalitions who received awards from the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to support residents with COVID-19 recovery and resilience. Cal-PEP is among the 12

existing Community Coalitions, and this new award will expand the programs and services they offer to residents. Since January 2022, the Community Coalitions have:

- reached and supported 372,607 residents
- administered 5,154 vaccines to residents
- helped increase health literacy levels of residents in the County's priority zip codes

The now 14 Coalitions will continue to promote COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, testing, distribute isolation/quarantine kits, reach residents with COVID-19 prevention and health information, while Cal-PEP, Sister to Sister 2, and Tri-Valley Nonprofit Alliance Coalitions help identify and link residents to needed community resources.

“While new COVID-19 cases and hospitalization rates continue to decline, we know that COVID-19 is still with us and our communities, especially our communities of color, are still dying from this virus,” said Kimi Watkins-Tartt, the Director of the Alameda County Public Health Department. “Yes, we have made tremendous progress since the beginning of the pandemic, but one new COVID-19 variant has the potential to reverse our progress. Our Community Coalition partners will continue to be an integral part of the public health department's pandemic response. They will help Alameda County continue to recovery and build resilience against COVID-19 and future health crisis.”

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Alameda County, located in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area, is the seventh (7th) most populous county in the State of California. With a total area of more than 800 square miles and a population of more than 1.6 million residents, Alameda County encompasses urban, suburban, and rural geographic areas as well as a large unincorporated area. Alameda County is characterized by its rich ethnic diversity and is ranked as one of the most diverse counties in the country. Based on the 2018 American Community Survey, 32.1 percent of the County's population is foreign-born and there is no majority racial or ethnic group. In addition, according to the California Department of Education, 60 languages were spoken by English language learners in the K-12 public school systems in Alameda County in 2019-2020.