



Central Valley Health Network

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### **Central Valley Health Network Awarded Grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to Help Reduce Barriers to Rural Healthcare Delivery**

**FRESNO, Calif.**, January 19, 2009—The Central Valley Health Network (CVHN), a consortium of 12 Federally Qualified Health Care corporations serving low-income and medically underserved families, has been awarded a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program to expand its videoconferencing network to rural clinic sites in Central California.

The CVHN Distance Learning Project will utilize funds to furnish a total of nine healthcare clinics in seven counties, all members of CVHN, with state-of-the-art videoconferencing equipment. The technology will be used to facilitate the delivery of distance learning services to clinic staff by providing Continuing Medical Education (CME) and other distance learning services necessary for professional growth and credentialing of healthcare clinic personnel.

The Distance Learning Project will also provide nutritional and diabetes education to community residents, many of whom are low-income and experience nutritional deficiencies from the effects of chronic diabetes. The goal of the Project is to assist rural health clinics in overcoming the barriers to healthcare delivery, which include lack of nutritional and health education, few opportunities for training, and lack of clinical collaboration among rural healthcare providers.

“We are honored that the USDA is supporting CVHN’s efforts to strengthen medical services in rural areas,” said David Quackenbush, CEO of Central Valley Health Network. “These funds will enable CVHN to provide invaluable communication and training services to rural clinics, which will ultimately benefit rural populations.”

The nine healthcare clinics are: Camarena Health Center in Chowchilla, Madera County; Esparto Family Practice in Esparto, Yolo County; Frazier Mountain Community Health Center in Lebec, Kern County; Wheatland Family Health Center, in Wheatland, Yuba County; Family Healthcare Network in Orosi, Tulare County; Golden Valley Health Center in LeGrand, Merced County; Buttonwillow Health Center in

Buttonwillow, Kern County; United Health Centers in Mendota, Fresno County; and Kerman Health Center in Kerman, Fresno County.

**About the Central Valley Health Network**

The Central Valley Health Network (CVHN) is a consortium of 12 Federally Qualified Health Center corporations that provide comprehensive preventative primary care services to low-income and medically underserved families throughout the Central Valley of California. CVHN supports consortium members with technical assistance, advocacy, program development and administration and training. Currently, CVHN has 124 clinic sites in 21 counties that provide 2.3 million encounters to more than 560,000 patients annually.

For more information about CVHN, visit [www.cvhnclinics.org](http://www.cvhnclinics.org) or call (559) 255-4300.

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