



Central Valley Health Network



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH NETWORK, KERN COUNTY SUPERVISOR
MICHAEL RUBIO AND THE USDA TO HOST ROUNDTABLE ON JOBS
AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

*Business Owners, Residents, Community Health Centers, Local Leaders Invited
to Share Ideas on Creating Jobs*

FRESNO, Calif., JANUARY 22, 2010 –Central Valley Health Network and Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio will hold a county-wide roundtable on job creation and economic growth on Monday, January 25th at 5:30 pm at the Kern County Administrative Building located at 1115 Truxton Avenue, 3rd floor in Bakersfield. The event is being conducted in partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture.

“This forum will provide an opportunity for residents, business owners and community leaders across the state to share ideas on creating jobs and improving economic opportunities,” said USDA Rural Development State Director Dr. Glenda Humiston. “Government can help lay the groundwork for economic growth, but the best ideas for continued growth and job creation often come from local and community leaders. I look forward to hearing these ideas and sharing them with the Administration.”

The roundtable will include business owners, residents, state and local officials, community health centers, union members, non-profit organizations, community leaders, economists and other interested parties. Participants will discuss steps that can be taken to grow the economy and put Americans back to work.

The primary focus will be on ideas to accelerate job growth in rural America. Some of the topics to be discussed are:

- Exploring ways to rejuvenate and promote local businesses;
- Creating jobs by rebuilding America’s infrastructure;
- Creating new opportunities from existing ones, such as with value-added agricultural products;
- Supporting job growth among small businesses; and
- Preparing workers for 21st century jobs.

These forums are organized by USDA Rural Development throughout the state. Co-hosting this effort is USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service as well as a wide variety of local organizers: Economic Development Corporations, U.C. Cooperative Extension, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, California State Universities, Central Valley Health Network, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Farm Bureaus, Tribal Governments, Self-Help Housing Groups, and many more. To find a location near you, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ca.

About Central Valley Health Network

The Central Valley Health Network (CVHN) is a consortium of 13 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 members serve more than 600,000 patients annually across 128 clinic sites in 21 counties for a total of 2.5 million patient visits yearly.

For more information about CVHN, visit www.cvhnclinics.org or call (916) 552-2846