



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Blue Shield of California Foundation Helps Yolo County Plan for Health Coverage Expansions

(Woodland, CA) – This week, Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) announced that it is investing \$1.9 million to help 12 California counties plan for expansions in public health coverage, building a bridge to the coverage expansions envisioned under federal health reform that will take effect in 2014. Yolo County is one of the 12 grant recipients, receiving a grant for \$125,000.

“California’s counties have a unique opportunity to expand health coverage to thousands of people who need it today,” said Peter Long, president and CEO of BSCF. “I applaud the initiative that county and state leaders are showing to expand access to care in their communities. Our foundation is pleased to support their efforts.”

State and federal leaders are negotiating a new Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver that will make it possible for counties to obtain new federal funds to help cover legal, low-income residents. The new waiver will expand the ability of counties to match their existing indigent care funding with federal Medicaid funds to pay for county-based coverage initiatives.

BSCF planning grants will allow counties to develop and demonstrate their capacity to deliver care more effectively and efficiently. Counties will be using the grants to incorporate best practices for creating coverage expansion programs and developing integrated systems of safety net providers. The grants will help counties to make the transition to providing better preventive and coordinated care to residents who now get episodic care, at best.

“This grant will assist us in maximizing healthcare services for our most vulnerable populations,” said Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Helen M. Thomson. “It will allow us to identify gaps in delivery capacity and capability within our community resulting from anticipated increases in demand associated with fully implemented healthcare reform. And it will allow us to develop a coordinated and integrated chronic illness management program that will link physical and mental health services needed by the residents of Yolo County.”

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