NORTHWEST HEALTH FOUNDATION AWARDS $750 THOUSAND TO COMMUNITIES IMPACTING HEALTH IN EARLY LIFE

PORTLAND, Ore.—Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF) has awarded $750 thousand ($750,000) in grant funds to 25 communities in Oregon and Southwest Washington as part of its Healthy Beginnings+Healthy Communities Initiative (HB+HC). HB+HC, launched in 2014, will help communities improve health, from birth to high school, by 2020.

“Birth, kindergarten readiness and high school readiness are critical stages in building lifelong health and family prosperity,” said NWHF President and CEO Nichole June Maher. “Through the Healthy Beginnings+Healthy Communities Initiative, NWHF will help communities improve health during these crucial years.”

Over the next year, communities will use these grant funds to organize themselves for five-year Community-Based Partnerships. Of the 25 Organizing Grant Communities, up to 10 will be selected for Community-Based Partnerships beginning in 2016. These partners will join NWHF in transforming institutions, programs and policies to deliver better outcomes in early life, equity and community health.

The Organizing Grant Communities plan to impact everything from African maternal and child health, to families at risk for and impacted by family violence and sexual assault, to rural Latino communities, and much more.
ABOUT HB+HC

A safe, healthy childhood can set the stage for lifelong health. But no child raises herself. Family, friends and the community at large play a critical role in setting a child up for success. It’s all hands on deck. That’s why the best strategies for improving health involve and are led by parents and their community.

Working together, communities can forge connections, build leaders and collaborate to improve health for all children. In turn, those healthy children grow to contribute to our community’s overall health.

Healthy Beginnings+Healthy Communities supports community-led efforts that impact health in the early years of life and aligns with Northwest Health Foundation’s belief that we are most effective as a foundation when supporting the conditions for community organizations and members to develop common goals, and produce strategies and results that improve the lives of everyone.

Each Organizing Grant Community is self-identified by geography, shared experience/identity or both and made up of a lead organization, strategic partners and key community members. For profiles of the communities, please visit the following url:

https://static.squarespace.com/static/52b20be1e4b09f7904dfa46f/t/54b03346e4b068cf47e98050/142083606106/HB%2BHC_Community_Profiles_Edited_01_09_15_no+contacts.pdf

Lead Organizations

Africa House – IRCO
Asian Family Center – IRCO
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Autism Empowerment
Battered Persons’ Advocacy
Be Your Best Cottage Grove
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
EUVALCREE
Healthy Living Collaborative of Southwest Washington
Jefferson Regional Health Alliance
Let’s Talk Diversity Coalition
Linn Benton Community College
Longview Highlands Neighborhood Association

Lower Columbia Hispanic Council
Malheur Education Service District
Medical Foundation of Marion & Polk Counties
Momentum Alliance
Native American Youth and Family Center
North Clackamas School District
Oregon Latino Health Coalition
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
Slavic Network of Oregon – IRCO
Stand for Children Leadership Center
Urban League of Portland
Vision Action Network

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Northwest Health Foundation seeks to advance, support, and promote health in Oregon and southwest Washington. By providing grants to initiatives, forming partnerships with health and community leaders, and advocating for policy change, we are furthering our vision of giving every person the opportunity to lead a healthy life. We have a vision for health, and our grants, partnerships, and advocacy form a foundation for action.

More information can be found at www.northwesthealth.org.