



**Northeast Valley
Health Corporation**
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NEWS RELEASE

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NORTHEAST VALLEY HEALTH CORPORATION AWARDED \$100,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR DRUG ADDICTION

- *Northeast Valley Health Corporation is one of only 100 agencies funded in communities across California to make sure hard-to-reach populations that are uninsured and eligible for financial help through Covered California get the information and support they need to sign up for coverage.*
- *Approximately 89 percent of Californians live within a 15-minute drive of these community-based organizations.*

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC), one of the nation's largest community health centers operating in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, received a \$100,000 grant from the Center at Sierra Health Foundation to expand Medication Assistant Treatment (MAT) services at two of NEVHC's Transitions to Wellness sites in Van Nuys and North Hollywood. The two sites specialize in providing health care services to patients experiencing homelessness and will use the grant to serve as a MAT access point for 80 individuals in the prevention, treatment and recovery of substance use and opioid use disorders.

"Substance use and opioid use disorders disproportionately impact our homeless neighbors and we're grateful to receive support from The Center at Sierra Health Foundation that will allow us to increase our capacity to serve patients affected by these public health crises," said Kim Wyard, CEO of NEVHC. "A portion of our funding will support lifesaving preventative measures with the help of a roving Substance Use Disorder Counselor and updated technology to improve our services, outreach and capacity."

The Center at Sierra Health, through the MAT Access Points Project, awarded more than \$16.4 million to 120 health based organizations throughout California, including over \$1 million that will be distributed amongst 9 Los Angeles County to enhance their role as MAT access points for Angelenos.

"Expanding MAT access points is a critical step forward in California's effort to address the opioid epidemic taking place across our great state," said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation.

(more)

“A critical component of our effort is building the capacity of partners who have the commitment and relationships required to reach people and families in communities that are disproportionately experiencing poor access to MAT substance use disorder treatment and high opioid-related mortality rates.”

This funding will ensure that the delivery of MAT facilitates positive treatment outcomes, safe management of care transitions and long-term recovery for people with opioid and other substance use disorders.

This first round of funding includes sub-contracts between \$16,000 and \$861,000 for start-up activities and MAT enhancement efforts. A second round of funding will be announced in Fall 2019.

About Northeast Valley Health Corporation

With 15 licensed health centers, Northeast Valley Health Corporation (NEVHC) is one of the nation's largest community health centers. Incorporated in 1971, NEVHC is a non-profit Joint Commission accredited Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). NEVHC's mission is to provide quality, safe and comprehensive primary health care to medically underserved residents of Los Angeles County, particularly in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys, in a manner that is sensitive to the economic, cultural and linguistic needs of the community. Learn more about NEVHC at nevhc.org.

About MAT Access Points Project and The Center at Sierra Health Foundation

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation works to promote health and racial equity in communities throughout California with local, state and national partners: shfcenter.org

Learn more about the MAT Access Points Project at mataccesspoints.org.

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