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CalRHIO Announces Awards to Support Health Information Exchange in Four Safety Net Organizations

Activity is part of Blue Shield of California Foundation Grant to CalRHIO

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., August 20, 2007 – CalRHIO, through a grant from Blue Shield of California Foundation, is funding four safety net organizations up to \$85,000 each to strengthen, advance, or expand existing health information exchange (HIE) initiatives aimed at improving clinical efficiency, quality of care, and patient safety.

The four awardees are:

- Alliance Medical Center, Healdsburg
- Community Health Partnership, Santa Clara
- San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, San Francisco
- Tehachapi Valley Health Care District, Tehachapi

“We are delighted to be able to help these organizations go the next level. Each project has potential to significantly advance health information exchange in its community,” said Melanie Allison, CalRHIO Chief Technology Officer.

Three of the projects -- Alliance Medical Center, Community Health Partnership, and Tehachapi Valley Health Care District -- address electronic access to clinical data from local hospitals. Two, the Community Health Partnership and the San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, also address electronic specialty referrals for the safety net population. The Alliance Medical Center's project also addresses electronic access to lab results and orders.

“These projects will also serve as laboratories for learning and contribute to building the capacity of HIE development in California's safety net community,” Allison said. “In the long term, this initiative aims to provide education, information, and resources that will inspire and support more California communities to engage in effective HIE.”

Awardees were chosen through an RFP process and selected by an advisory group that included individuals representing public and rural hospitals and community clinics. Twelve RFPs were submitted from across the state.

CalRHIO is the nonprofit statewide initiative to improve health care safety, quality, and efficiency through the use of information technology and the secure, confidential exchange of health information throughout California. For more information on CalRHIO visit www.calrhio.org.

For more information on Blue Shield of California Foundation, visit www.blueshieldcafoundation.org.