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Peninsula Health Care District Expands Community Grants Program to \$5 Million and Launches New Safety Net Services Grant Category

The Board Approves \$2 Million Increase to Help Protect Essential Health Services Amid State and Federal Funding Uncertainty

BURLINGAME, Calif. (July 29, 2026) — The Peninsula Health Care District (PHCD) Board of Directors approved a **\$2 million increase** to its Community Grants Program, bringing the District's total annual grant investment to **\$5 million**. The Board also approved a new **Safety Net Services** grant category to help local nonprofit organizations respond to growing financial pressures resulting from federal and state healthcare policy changes.

The expanded investment reflects the District's commitment to protecting access to essential health services as California's healthcare safety net faces increasing uncertainty. Recent federal policy changes and the State's 2026–27 budget are expected to place additional strain on Medi-Cal providers, community clinics, behavioral health organizations, dental providers, food security programs, in-home supportive services, and other nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable populations. The additional funding is intended to help stabilize access to these critical services as providers adapt to evolving funding models.

The new Safety Net Services grant category will prioritize programs that provide:

- Oral health and dental services
- Medi-Cal enrollment, renewal, and benefits navigation
- Food-as-medicine programs
- Community health workers and care coordination

The Board also approved expanded funding opportunities that will allow organizations providing critical safety-net services to apply for larger grant awards, seek funding for multiple eligible programs that address distinct community needs, and be considered for multi-year funding to strengthen long-term program sustainability.



“Communities across California are facing uncertainty as changes to healthcare funding and Medi-Cal policies begin to take effect,” said Ana M. Pulido, MPA, Chief Executive Officer of Peninsula Health Care District. “By expanding our Community Grants Program and introducing a dedicated Safety Net Services funding category, the District is making a proactive investment in the organizations on the front lines of community health. These nonprofit organizations provide essential services that help keep residents healthy, reduce preventable emergency department visits, and ensure our most vulnerable neighbors continue to receive the care and support they need.”

Approximately 155,000 San Mateo County residents are enrolled in Medi-Cal, including an estimated 45,000 residents within the Peninsula Health Care District's service area. Federal and state policy changes are expected to affect thousands of County residents through changes in eligibility, reimbursement, and access to care coordination and supportive services. Local healthcare providers are preparing for increased demand for services while facing reduced public reimbursement and growing uncompensated care.

"Our Board recognizes that strong community health depends on strong community partners," said Lawrence W. Cappel, Ph.D., Chair of the Peninsula Health Care District Board of Directors. "These organizations have the experience, existing program infrastructure, and trusted community relationships. This investment reflects our commitment to strengthening the trusted programs that already exist, helping ensure they can continue serving our community despite an evolving healthcare landscape."

Since its inception, the Peninsula Health Care District Community Grants Program has invested millions of dollars in local nonprofit organizations that improve community health through prevention, education, early intervention, and access to care. The expanded FY 2027 program builds on that legacy by strategically directing additional resources toward organizations providing high-impact safety-net services during a period of significant healthcare transition.

Letters of Interest for the FY 2027 Community Grants Program will open in August, with an Informational Session on Zoom on Tuesday, August 4th at 2 PM. Funding priorities will continue to align with the District's strategic focus areas of preventive health, mental and behavioral health, healthy aging, and now Safety Net Services. More information about the 2027 Community Grants Program will be posted on peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org.



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About Peninsula Health Care District: Founded in 1947, the Peninsula Health Care District serves the communities of San Bruno, Millbrae, Burlingame, Hillsborough, San Mateo, and a portion of Foster City and South San Francisco by supporting the unique health and wellness priorities of our Peninsula communities, and safeguarding access to health services, today and in the future. PHCD fulfills its commitment to the community through oversight of District assets and infrastructure, providing direct services, planning for future healthcare needs, and investing taxpayer dollars in local health-focused programs and partner organizations. For more information:
peninsulahealthcaredistrict.org.

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