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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**U.S. Health and Human Services Awards Local Community Health Centers
to Expand Oral Health Service**

Bringing \$1.5 million of federal funds into their local communities

San Diego, CA – Five Health Center Partners of Southern California (HCP) [member health centers](#) received a combined total of \$1.5 million from [U.S. Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) to expand their oral health service capacity through new infrastructure enhancements.

“Access to high-quality, integrated oral health care is essential to the early detection of oral diseases, which are critical to preventing future, often costly, health issues,” said Acting HRSA Administrator Tom Engels. “These awards, which are the first of their kind, will help health centers tackle limitations in infrastructure, such as outdated equipment and insufficient space, and improve access to integrated, oral health services in primary care settings in communities across the country.”

The awards of up to \$300,000 each will support physical and organizational infrastructure investments for health centers, such as minor alteration and renovation to modernize existing facilities, purchase and installation of dental and radiology equipment, training and consultation to increase oral health integration, and purchase of mobile dental units to increase access to oral health care in hard-to-reach parts of communities.

“We’re extremely pleased that our members have been selected to receive these awards, which allow us, in collaboration with our member health centers, to improve access to high quality oral care for the safety net population throughout Southern California,” said Nicole Howard, Chief Advancement Officer of Health Center Partners. “HCP’s members are at the forefront of high-quality care, serving more than 800,000 patients across southern California,” she added.

The following Health Center Partners’ member health centers received awards:

1. Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo, Inc. was awarded \$300,000
2. La Maestra Community Health Centers was awarded \$300,000
3. Neighborhood Healthcare was awarded \$300,000
4. North County Health Services was awarded \$300,000
5. San Diego American Indian Health Center was awarded \$300,000

In 2017 alone, these five member health centers had a total of more than 143,000 dental visits among 24 individual sites located throughout San Diego, Riverside and Imperial counties.

[Full list of California FY 2019 Oral Health Awards recipients](#)

[HRSA’s Health Center Program](#)

About Health Center Partners of Southern California

Health Center Partners of Southern California, a family of companies, includes a 17-membership organization of federally qualified health centers, Indian Health Services Organizations, both urban and sovereign, and Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. Our members collectively serve more than 800,000 patients each year, for 3.2 million patient visits annually, at 135 practice sites across San Diego, Riverside, and Imperial counties, with the sixth largest provider group in the region <http://www.hcpsocal.org>

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