

Pictured: Healthy House Within A MATCH Coalition's Partners for Healthy Food Access project at Mercy Medical Center Family Care Clinic in Merced.



MEDI-CAL CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM

2020 Impact Report

About the Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program

Central California Alliance for Health's Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program (MCGP) provides grants to health care and community-based organizations to increase the availability, quality and access of health care and supportive services for Medi-Cal members in Merced, Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. The Alliance invests to advance goals in four priority focus areas:

1. Provider Capacity
2. Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Services
3. High Utilizer Support Resources
4. Healthy Eating and Active Living

HEALTHY PEOPLE. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

A MESSAGE

FROM OUR CEO



First 5 of Santa Cruz County and Santa Cruz Community Health Centers team up for diaper and formula distribution for families in need as a result of COVID-19.

The Central California Alliance for Health (the Alliance) established a new vision in 2020: Healthy people. Healthy communities. This challenging year underscored there was no better time to declare what the Alliance works to achieve for our members and communities. This report highlights the MCGP's significant impact areas in 2020.

In 2020, the MCGP provided immediate relief during the coronavirus pandemic by establishing the COVID-19 Response Fund, while continuing the Alliance's long-term investments in access to care and member wellness. The MCGP focuses on the critical impact of social determinants of health, including access to food and housing. The pandemic increased the urgency for funding in these areas. A large portion of the COVID-19 Response Fund was awarded to the three county food banks in our service area to provide immediate relief to the surge of residents facing pandemic-related hunger.



Alliance grantee partners showed incredible resilience and commitment to our shared vision of healthy people, healthy communities in a very challenging year. I am confident that the Alliance investments provide a critical foundation for achieving our vision and supporting accessible, quality health care and local innovation for years to come.

*Stephanie
Sonnenshine*

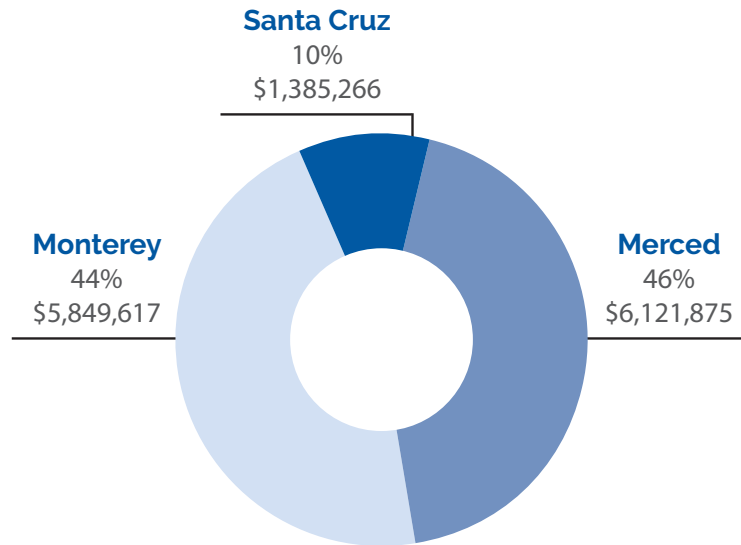


The Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County provided over 700 meal bags and 700 produce boxes weekly to families at low-income apartment complexes.

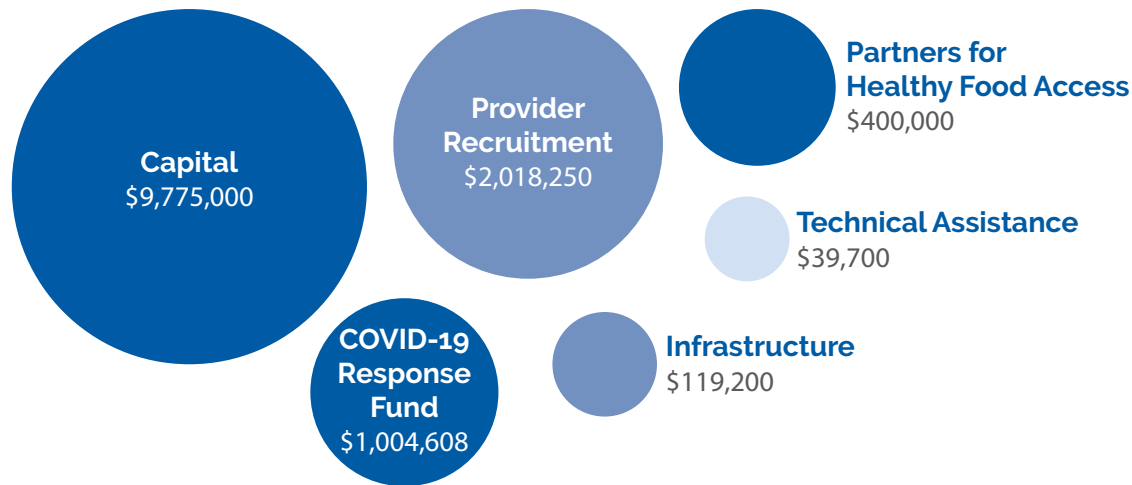
COVID-19 Response Fund

The COVID-19 Response Fund was created in April 2020 to meet the urgent challenges facing Alliance members during the pandemic. In addition to the \$600,000 awarded to local food banks, \$400,000 was awarded to local entities to meet members' evolving needs, including funding for diapers and formula, meal delivery for high-risk members, and personal protective equipment and sanitizing supplies for providers of food and homeless services.

2020 GRANT AWARDS



Total Awarded by County



Total Awarded by Program

\$13.4M
Awarded

56
Grants
Awarded

225,000
Alliance Members
Impacted

Since 2015, the Alliance has awarded **548** grants totaling **\$114,170,837** to **137** organizations in the Alliance's service area.

HOUSING

AND HEALTH



Junsay Oaks supportive housing complex in Marina. (Photo courtesy of CHISPA)

Moon Gate Plaza (MidPen Housing) in Salinas and **Junsay Oaks (CHISPA) in Marina** were completed in 2020 and welcomed new residents. Both housing developments allocated 20 units each for medically complex Alliance members who receive supportive services through Monterey County Health Department's Whole Person Care Program. Residents receive on-site support from case managers with their health and personal goals, with the ultimate aim of improved health and a high quality of life. Meanwhile, construction of the County of Merced's Navigation Center is underway. The center will provide a variety of services to individuals experiencing homelessness, including low-barrier transitional housing and housing navigation services to assist participants in securing a permanent residence.

“I have suffered from depression for a long time. I would have probably taken drastic measures if I remained homeless; Junsay Oaks has saved my life and I have better health, too. I also suffer from chronic pain, but I can get a handle on it with housing and access to resources to manage the pain.”

– Alliance member and Junsay Oaks resident



Increasing local specialty care means Medi-Cal members don't need to travel far to access critical services.

Expanding Specialty Care Access

The MCGP supported expanded access to specialty care for Alliance members in 2020. Taylor Farms Family Health & Wellness Center in Gonzales opened its new specialty clinic, which provides services including podiatry, general surgery, OB/GYN, behavioral health and diabetes education in south Monterey County. Behavioral health access for youth also expanded with the new Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance's facility in Watsonville. Members receiving palliative care with Hospice of Santa Cruz County can now access services remotely through telehealth.

Reducing Food Insecurity

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified the urgency to respond to food insecurity across the Alliance's service area. MCGP grantees were able to provide fresh and healthy food to members through the Partners for Healthy Food Access and COVID-19 Response Fund grant programs. COVID-19 challenged these grantees to reconsider ways to continue safe food distribution to clients. Some continued services with new safety protocols, while others pivoted to contactless food delivery, online nutrition education classes and social media outreach.

In addition, the Post-Discharge Meal Delivery (PDMD) pilot proved to be an effective intervention to keep members healthy. The PDMD pilot provided eligible members with 14 ready-made, medically tailored nutritious meals each week for 12 weeks, post-hospital discharge, thereby reducing hospital admissions and lowering health care costs. The Alliance Board approved the transition of the PDMD pilot to an Alliance-only benefit starting 2021. Eligible members have a diagnosis of diabetes, congestive heart failure and/or chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder and are identified as high-risk for hospital readmission.



Clockwise from top left: Esperanza Farms CSA boxes; Food, What?! fresh produce delivery; Everyone's Harvest Alisal Farmers' Market; Teen Kitchen Project "Delivery Angel"



For more information about the Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program, please visit <http://www.ccah-alliance.org/grantprogram.html>.



About the Alliance

Central California Alliance for Health (the Alliance) is a regional Medi-Cal managed care health plan, established in 1996 to improve access to health care for over 350,000 members in Santa Cruz, Monterey and Merced counties.



For more information about the **Medi-Cal Capacity Grant Program**, please visit

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