

News Release



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Creating a Community Where Kids Are Healthy, Safe & Ready to Learn

South Los Angeles to Partner with The California Endowment in 10-Year Initiative

Expo Center • 3980 South Menlo Avenue • Los Angeles 90037

Saturday, August 15th • 9am-Noon

Los Angeles, CA — Affordable housing, good jobs, safe schools, clean air, parks and playgrounds, walkable streets, markets with fresh fruits and vegetables, and strong social networks are crucial to a healthy California. To make this a reality in South Los Angeles, more than 200 community members and representatives of over 60 local organizations will gather on August 15th at the Expo Center to launch *Building Healthy Communities*. The campaign is part of a 10-year strategic plan sponsored by The California Endowment to improve health systems and the physical, economic and social service structures that can impact the health of a community. The initiative represents the first time a major foundation has made a large-scale, long-term investment in South Los Angeles providing new opportunities for community collaboration, civic engagement and change.

“Healthy food options, places for children to play, children with health coverage and a medical home are scarce in South LA,” says Lark Galloway-Gilliam, executive director of CHC. “Building Healthy Communities makes a healthier future possible for the 90,000 residents of South Figueroa/Vermont-Manchester corridor who call this region home and will serve as a model for the larger area of South LA.”

The California Endowment has identified 14 communities throughout California to partner with and fund for their *Building Healthy Communities* initiative. Each community will take the next several months to develop a plan for the changes they want to see. The planning process for South Los Angeles will kick off with the launch of *Building Healthy Communities* on Saturday, August 15th from 9am to Noon at the Expo Center, 3980 South Menlo Avenue, LA 90037.

The launch will mark the beginning of the community planning process and provide an overview of opportunities for participation. This will include the organization of an area-wide committee to oversee the planning process and ten-year initiative. The planning committee will include broad representation from area residents, community, faith-based organizations and the business sector within the South Figueroa/Vermont Manchester Corridor. When the planning phase is complete in February 2010, The Endowment will enter into long-term partnerships with local leaders to improve environments, policies and health for children and families.

“A healthy community is an economically-viable and thriving community,” concludes Pete White, founder & Co-director of Los Angeles Community Action Network. “The launch of South Los Angeles Building Healthy Communities is just the beginning of the reinvestment required to ensure the residents of South Los Angeles are afforded the opportunity to grow up healthy and live healthy lives.”

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