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Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills to Improve Odds for Youth

The Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills is one of seven community coalitions to receive a \$600,000 grant from Sierra Health Foundation to help improve the lives of young people. As part of its \$8 million commitment to capital-region youth, Sierra Health Foundation's REACH program awarded \$4.2 million in grants to the seven communities. The grant dollars will be distributed over the next three years.

The Vision Coalition of El Dorado Hills and the six other coalitions, which serve the communities of Galt, Meadowview, Rancho Cordova, South Sacramento, West Sacramento and Woodland, will make community-wide changes for youth to ensure they are safe and healthy, have positive relationships with caring adults, have meaningful opportunities to participate in the community and develop the skills they need to be successful. The communities will make these changes through youth councils, service learning, activism, mentoring, arts, job readiness and a variety of other youth-led opportunities.

"We know that youth are more likely to become healthy, productive adults when they are connected to adults who care about them and when they have engaged in their community and their school," explains Len McCandliss, Sierra Health Foundation president. "The REACH program is pleased to support these coalitions as they begin implementing their strategies to make their communities healthier places for youth."

REACH coalitions are calling out to schools, faith-based organizations, local businesses and individual members of the community to help make positive changes for youth. Sierra Health will hold a regional youth conference in Sacramento on July 10, which will address community change for youth. To learn more, visit www.sierrahealth.org.

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Sierra Health Foundation is a private philanthropy promoting improved health and quality of life for the people of Northern California.