



NEWS RELEASE

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Treasurer Lockyer Announces More Than \$2.1 Million in Low-Cost Loans for Health Facilities *Two Recipients to Buy Equipment, Software for Electronic Records*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer today announced four community health care facilities will receive more than \$2.1 million in low-cost loans from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA), including two who will use a combined \$1.13 million to improve patient care through electronic health recordkeeping.

“Transferring health records to an electronic format is essential to improving patient care and controlling costs,” said Lockyer. “Affordable and stable financing gives community clinics a way to modernize, and moves us closer to the goal of providing quality, accessible health care to all Californians.”

CHFFA today approved a \$750,000 loan for Family HealthCare Network (FHCN) in Porterville and a \$380,000 loan for Eastern Plumas Health Care District (EPHCD) in Portola. CHFFA provided the financing under its Healthcare Expansion Loan Program II (HELP II).

Family HealthCare Network will use its HELP II loan to purchase two computer servers and electronic health records software. Started in 1976, FHCN is a nonprofit community clinic providing, among other services, family and internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, dentistry, and radiology. The new equipment and software will allow the clinic to better track and manage patient records, improving efficiency, access and care.

Eastern Plumas Health Care District also will use its \$380,000 loan to purchase electronic health records equipment. Since 1964, EPHCD has provided general acute care, including medical, dental and skilled nursing care, to residents of Plumas County and surrounding areas. The equipment will enable them to utilize a paperless health records system that is expected to reduce data entry errors and improve efficiency, leading to better care.

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CHFFA approved loans to two other facilities. Six Rivers Planned Parenthood in Eureka was awarded \$264,200 to refinance an existing loan. The refinancing is expected to save Six Rivers \$37,500 over the life of the seven-year HELP II loan. JWCH Institute in Los Angeles will get a \$750,000 loan to purchase land for their new community clinic in Lynwood.

The HELP II Loan program provides three percent, fixed interest loans to California's nonprofit small and rural health facilities. The loans may be used to purchase or construct new facilities, remodel or renovate existing facilities, and purchase equipment or furnishings. Under the program, up to \$750,000 is available to small facilities with gross annual revenues of up to \$30 million. Facilities in rural areas are exempt from the gross revenue limit. Since the program's inception in 1988, CHFFA has loaned more than \$52 million under HELP II.

Chaired by Lockyer as State Treasurer, CHFFA provides low-cost financial assistance to public hospitals and private, nonprofit health care providers in California. Funding provided through CHFFA can be used to construct, remodel or renovate facilities, acquire land or existing facilities, purchase or lease equipment, or obtain working capital for start-up facilities, among other purposes. CHFFA has financed a wide range of providers and programs throughout the state, from the smaller entities eligible for for HELP II to to large multi-hospital systems.

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