



**CALIFORNIA SCHOOL HEALTH CENTERS ASSOCIATION**  
*Putting health care where kids are ... in school.*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Marcel Reynolds at 510-268-1031 or  
mreynolds@schoolhealthcenters.org

***California School-Based Health Centers Part of Health Insurance Exchange Outreach***

(Oakland, CA) – School-based health centers throughout California are part of the effort to carry out community education on and enrollment in the new health insurance exchanges mandated by the 2010 Affordable Care Act.

The California School Health Centers Association (CSHC) is one of 48 lead organizations that received a total of \$37 million this week from Covered California, the state's health insurance exchange board. Through its \$377,000 grant, CSHC will partner with a network of 12 school-based health centers and other school programs to educate young people about the importance and accessibility of health insurance plans. The network will reach young people and their families in counties across the state, including in the Bay Area, Los Angeles County, the Central Valley, and rural areas of Northern California.

The goal of the Covered California grant program is to increase awareness of affordable health coverage options available through the California Health Benefits Exchange, eliminate perceived barriers to coverage, and motivate Californians to enroll in health coverage. Schools are a strategic venue for conducting education about new health insurance options because students and families trust the school to provide unbiased information. Hundreds of students and families rely on schools to provide them with critical information that supports community well-being.

The program CSHC will oversee as part of the Covered California grant builds on its successful Peer Health Insurance Rights and Education (PHIRE) program that piloted in 2011 at high schools in San Francisco and San Jose. The initial program trained 31 students who in turn educated more than 2,500 members of their communities.

"Younger Californians are an as-yet untapped force for making sure our state's health insurance exchange can be successful and remain affordable for all. Furthermore, the young people who access care at school-based health centers are proving to be excellent messengers to their families and friends about the importance of getting coverage and staying healthy," said CSHC Executive Director Serena Clayton.

The California School Health Centers Association (CSHC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the health and academic success of children and youth by advocating for policies and funding to expand and improve the 200 school-based health centers in California. Learn more at [www.schoolhealthcenters.org](http://www.schoolhealthcenters.org).

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*Editor's Note:* For more information about Covered California, please visit [www.CoveredCA.com](http://www.CoveredCA.com). For a full list of grantees, grant amounts, and information on planned grantee activities, visit [www.hbex.ca.gov](http://www.hbex.ca.gov).