



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sept. 16, 2009

Contact: Gwendolyn Mitchell/Laurel Anderson
Office of Public Affairs
(408) 299-5119

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Fund Renovations of Valley Health Center Bascom

Funds to provide construction jobs while improving access to health care

SAN JOSE, CALIF. —Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System (SCVHHS) Valley Homeless Healthcare Program (VHHP) provides health care services to some 4,800 homeless patients, which is nearly 70% percent of the 7,000 homeless individuals in Santa Clara County. The County has received a \$419,505 grant award as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Capital Improvement Program to renovate to Valley Health Center Bascom. VHC Bascom, as part of the SCVHHS, serves the largest number of these homeless patients. This project will create up to 70 construction jobs in the community.

"The Valley Homeless Healthcare Program provides care to the most marginalized members of our community," said Supervisor Liz Kniss, President of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding will enable us to make necessary improvements to a clinic that provides family healthcare services to homeless clients."

The Valley Homeless Healthcare Program provides comprehensive services for homeless individuals who cannot or will not seek care in conventional healthcare settings such as doctors' offices or hospitals. By providing care that integrates primary medical, substance abuse, mental health, housing and support services, VHHP is increasing the number of homeless with "medical homes," decreasing unnecessary emergency room visits.

"VHC Bascom is the most convenient location for homeless families needing healthcare because of its proximity to other supportive services," said Supervisor Ken Yeager, Vice Chair of the Board's Health and Hospital Committee.

ARRA to Fund Renovations of Valley Health Center Bascom – page 2 of 2

VHC Bascom serves as the principal location for Obstetrics/Gynecology, pediatric and pediatric specialty care in the central San Jose area where Santa Clara County's homeless population is concentrated. VHHP provided prenatal care for 484 homeless women in 2008, primarily at VHC Bascom, including many with high risk pregnancies due to factors such as substance abuse, late prenatal care and homeless living conditions. The health center delivered care for 258 of VHHP's 584 pediatric patients (or 43% of all VHHP pediatric patients) in 2008, including children and adolescents who have lacked access to care and have previously untreated or under-treated special health needs.

"VHC Bascom is a critical location for reaching the homeless population and providing critical services for their health and well being," said Robin Roche, Executive Director, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, Ambulatory and Managed Care. "Renovations will enable the County to provide a better environment for our patients at the clinic."

Valley Health Center Bascom, constructed in 1984, is located adjacent to the VMC hospital. The ARRA's Health Resources and Services Administration grant will renovate and refurbish clinical suites for high risk obstetrics and pediatric specialty services, improve patient flow and increase patient access to needed services, as well as creating comfortable environments for patients.

For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Santa Clara County, go to <http://recovery SCC.org>.

###