



## **Foundation awards over \$400,000 in Teen Pregnancy Prevention and Youth College, Readiness, Access, and Attendance grants**

**Fresno, CA** – Fresno Regional Foundation (FRF) will award over \$400,000 in grants for Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) and College Readiness, Access, and Attendance programs.

Eight community benefit organizations will be recognized at a joint Grants Reception Wednesday, August 26 at Fresno Regional Foundation's new Center for Community at 5260 N Palm, Suite 122 Fresno, 93704.

"Fresno Regional Foundation is proud to partner with donors and funders who believe in a prosperous future for the Central Valley. As we look forward, we look to how we invest in our youth today to support healthy and educated citizens in the future," said President and CEO Hugh J. Ralston. "Through the Youth and TPP grant cycles, FRF is able to invest in organizations who have demonstrated success in educating and empowering youth for enhancing more successful, fulfilling lives."

### **Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP)**

FRF has a long history of funding programs that educate and empower youth in the Central Valley. The TPP Grant Cycle provides funding for youth development initiatives that develop leadership skills through a framework of skill building and comprehensive, medically accurate sexual education. The dual approach to TPP programs extends beyond preventing unwanted teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases to give youth the tools to advocate for themselves and their peers on a broad range of issues including, immigration, voter registration, LGBT rights, and more.

Four organizations will receive a total of \$303,475 for Teen Pregnancy Prevention grants; funding for this grant cycle is made possible thanks to a partnership with The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

#### **2015 Grants are to:**

**Madera Coalition for Community Justice: \$25,000 for Healthy Peers** - The Healthy Peers Program will provide comprehensive sex education to youth and parents in Madera

through peer health educators and community workshops to help fill the gaps in comprehensive education.

**ACT for Women and Girls: \$94,000 for ACTION, ACTIVISM and ImpACT on Teen Pregnancy in Tulare County** – Act for Women and Girls will train and educate teens through Sexual Health Awareness for Peer Empowerment (SHAPE) and Peer Education ACTION Teams to outreach to a minimum of 20,000 of their peers in Tulare County to enhance their understanding of sexual health.

**Boys and Girls Clubs of Fresno County: \$90,475 for Teen Pregnancy Prevention - Expanding the Message of Safer Choices** - Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County (B&GC) will provide comprehensive medically accurate sex education to low income youth of color. Through their expansion of “Safer Choices” program, B&GC will engage 992 youth and 530 parents in teen pregnancy prevention and workshops.

**Fresno Barrios Unidos: \$94,000 for "Peer Health Ambassadors Program,"** Through the comprehensive, evidence-based Peer Health Ambassadors Program (PHA), FBU will train peer educators to outreach and educate 3,040 of their peers. In addition, they will provide 350 parents with a multi-session program designed to increase parents’ knowledge about reproductive health and strategies on how to communicate with their kids about sex.

## Youth – College Readiness Access and Attendance

The D.S. Mitsuoka Fund for Dinuba, Reedley, and Orosi Children was established to help youth realize their dreams of higher education. Dorothy Mitsuoka was a successful citrus farmer in Central Valley, but always wished she would have gone to college. In a bequest to the Fresno Regional Foundation, Dorothy Mitsuoka created an endowed fund to make sure that youth in her region could have more opportunities than she had. To her, a college education was the most valuable thing a child could receive, and she directed her bequest to support these students in these communities.

In 2015, four organizations will receive a total of \$100,000 for Youth- College Readiness, Access, and Attendance. Funding for this grant cycle is made possible thanks to the Dorothy Mitsuoka Fund for Dinuba, Reedley, and Orosi Children.

**Central Valley Higher Education Consortium: \$25,000 for College/Career Boot Camp.** Through College/Career Boot Camp, 6,000 high school students, many of whom will be first-generation college-bound students, and their supporters will gain new go-to college search and planning resources to help set more students on the path to and through college.

**Community Services Employment Training, Inc.: \$25,000 for CSET TECH Connect**

The TECH Connect program provides high school students in the Cutler-Orosi community between the ages of 14-19 with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, learn about technology, and prepare for a successful future through career exploration and college preparation activities.

**Parent Institute for Quality Education: \$25,000 for Increasing College Readiness in Youth through a Parent Engagement Program.**

PIQE will provide Parent Engagement in Education Program to 185 low income parents at the following two to three high schools: Reedley High School, Orange Cove High School, and Cutler-Orosi High School. PIQE's aim is to impact the academic development of approximately 600 high need youth.

**Teen Success, Inc.: \$25,000 for Teen Success - Fresno & Tulare Counties.**

Teen Success, Inc. will facilitate four yearlong, weekly support groups for teen moms in Orange Cove, Reedley, Orosi, and Dinuba. During groups, professional facilitators mentor teen moms who develop trusting, supportive relationships with peers to empower them to reach their potential; particularly to finish high school and attend college.

Representatives of FRF, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Advisory Committee, Youth Committee, and the grantees who have been leading this work in the Central Valley for will be available for interviews before and after the presentation.

**About the Fresno Regional Foundation**

Founded in 1966, FRF improves the quality of life in the San Joaquin Valley through philanthropy. It serves Fresno, Madera, Merced, Mariposa, Tulare and Kings Counties.

FRF is the trusted link between donors and organization's stewarding to your legacies and investing in permanent, high-impact initiatives for the San Joaquin Valley. The Foundation holds assets of over \$62 million and awarded \$1.6 million in competitive grants, and over \$9.3 million in total grants in 2014. Grant priorities for the foundation include Arts and Culture, Youth, Human Services, Strengthening children ages zero to eight and their families, reducing teen pregnancy, investing in nonprofit capacity, and helping veterans.

For more information about the Fresno Regional Foundation, please visit <http://www.fresnorefoundation.org> or call 559-226-5600.

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