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Orange County Partnership Awarded \$1 Million Federal Grant *Funds will Strengthen Job Readiness Resources in Eight Cities*

Santa Ana, CA – On Wednesday, September 30, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services awarded a two-year \$1,000,000 grant to Orangewood Children's Foundation and four other local agencies for a new collaborative program called the Orange County Capacity Building Program. Orangewood is the lead agency on the collaboration and was one of 35 nonprofit grantees nationwide and the only southern California applicant selected.

The grant comes from the department's new Strengthening Communities Fund, created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The fund is comprised of two programs, one for government entities and one for nonprofit agencies. The goal is to boost the ability of community and faith-based organizations to handle the broad economic recovery issues in their communities, including job training and retention and access to state and Federal benefits.

"A key part of our mission is prevention," said Cal Winslow, CEO of Orangewood Children's Foundation. "While Orangewood provides direct services to current and former foster children, in the area of prevention we have a long legacy of partnering with similar organizations in Orange County. These partnerships leverage local resources and expertise to provide targeted services in a cost-effective manner. The Recovery Act grant is a huge opportunity to come together to develop more resources for Orange County's struggling families."

The Orange County Capacity Building Program is a new program that will be a partnership between five agencies: Orangewood (through its CONNECT: Partnership for Nonprofit Solutions program), the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, the County of Orange Social Services Agency (through the FaCT program), the Orange County Workforce Investment Boards and the Volunteer Center of Orange County. With funds contributed by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, total funding for the program is \$1.25 million. Orangewood's CONNECT program will administer the program.

The new program will target grassroots, faith and nonprofit organizations serving eight distressed communities in Orange County: Anaheim, Buena Park, Fullerton, Garden Grove, La Habra, Santa Ana, Stanton and Westminster. Funds will help these cities to increase and improve their ability to assist low income individuals in securing and retaining employment,

\$1 Million Federal Grant

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earning higher wages, obtaining better quality jobs, and gaining access to state and federal benefits and tax credits.

Objectives for the Orange County Capacity Building Program are: 1) to provide broad access to capacity building workshops to over 100 agencies; 2) to provide capacity building training, coaching and consulting to over 36 agencies; and 3) to provide \$600,000 in financial assistance awards through a competitive grant process along with one-on-one consulting and organizational assessments to 12-24 organizations.

For more information on the federal program, visit
<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/09/20090930d.html>.