

### A Message from Our Leaders

We release this 2020 Community Health
Snapshot during the most significant health
crisis of our lifetime. We have confronted
enormous challenges wrought by the COVID-19
pandemic, and we have come together with
all levels of government and our community
partners to meet this moment.

With the development and FDA Emergency Use Authorization of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines, we are working diligently to ensure everyone who wants to be vaccinated can do so easily, breaking down access barriers and addressing vaccine confidence in our communities.

We remain acutely aware that the pandemic is creating an unequal burden on communities of color. Latinx, Black, and Native Americans are dying from COVID-19 at significantly higher rates than white Americans, while lower-income, Latinx, and Black households face the highest rates of pandemic-related financial hardship and some of the lowest vaccination rates.

As we respond to these and other complex challenges to community health, we are guided by Kaiser Permanente's foundational and abiding commitment to racial equity.

When the killing of George Floyd and so many others sparked a national movement for racial justice, we immediately partnered with organizations to address systemic racism and the lack of economic opportunities that prevent communities of color from thriving. Most recently, we supported partners in the community working to combat the drastic spike in violence and hate against people of Asian descent.

We are proud to share that in 2020, our total Community Benefit investment was \$1.41 billion, which included \$228 million for charitable health coverage and medical financial assistance – 2 programs essential to providing health care for those most in need.

As COVID-19 surged, we also took bold steps to reduce the number of people infected by the virus. Kaiser Permanente provided grant funding to the Public



Health Institute to deploy contact tracers, helping local public health departments in California slow the spread. We also launched a COVID-19 public education campaign to provide critical health messages to communities disproportionately affected by the virus.

As you'll read in the stories of impact within this report, we also focused grantmaking to support urgent pandemic-related needs. We provided support to strengthen the health care safety net, address rising food and housing insecurity for people in need, and foster student and school staff mental health and well-being.

We humbly acknowledge that our work in the community would not be possible without our essential community partnerships. We pledge to continue our joint work on an equitable pandemic response in our communities, as together we face the ongoing challenges of this public health crisis.

**Carrie Owen Plietz** 

President, Kaiser Permanente Northern California Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan

**Yyette Radford** 

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The health care safety net has always been on the front lines of serving our most vulnerable communities, including a disproportionate number of low-income people of color. When the COVID-19 pandemic ignited in California last year, the community clinics, public hospitals, and health systems that comprise the safety net played an even more critical role.

Kaiser Permanente prioritized grants to the health care safety net and to homeless service providers to increase access to health care and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities disproportionally suffered the effects of the pandemic, with higher rates of hospitalizations and deaths than other communities.

Salud Para La Gente, or Health for the People, has a long history serving Latinx farmworkers and their families. It's 1 of 6 organizations in Santa Cruz County that received a total of more than \$1 million in grants from Kaiser Permanente in 2020 to support health care access for underserved people.

We're a hard-hit community with underserved patients, so having support for the work we do is important and impactful."

-Amy McEntee, DO, chief medical officer for the clinic

The grant to Salud Para La Gente helped it open 2 large outdoor drive-through clinics offering COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, intravenous infusions of monoclonal antibodies for treatment of the virus, and preventive care.

"We're a hard-hit community with underserved patients, so having support for the work we do is important and impactful," said Amy McEntee, DO, chief medical officer for the clinic.

Acknowledging the sobering health challenges facing people experiencing homelessness during the pandemic, Kaiser Permanente also awarded \$2 million in grants to homeless service providers in Northern California.



Roots Community Health Center in East Oakland, 1 of 14 organizations that received a grant, used its funding to expand its Street Team Outreach Medical Program. The team's services include COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, connections to isolation and quarantine accommodations, and hygiene and food supplies.

"One of our big priorities is to keep people alive until they get housing," said Danielle Williams, MD, who is part of the outreach team.

In 2020, Kaiser Permanente also supported the health care safety net with these additional grants:

A total of \$1 million to 4 federally qualified health centers in Fresno to increase health care access for residents disproportionately

increase health care access for residents disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

A total of more than \$2.3 million to Northern California community clinic member organizations to provide targeted training and technical assistance to clinics to improve health care quality and access for low-income people.



When the COVID-19 virus began spreading last spring, the estimated 151,000 people living in cars, tents, and on the streets of California faced another dire risk to their health. Because many people experiencing homelessness are older adults and many have underlying chronic conditions, they are at increased risk for severe illness if infected.

Sixty-three-year-old Patricia Maes was living outside at the time, sleeping near a San Jose park, and undergoing treatment for breast cancer. She was terrified she would catch COVID-19 and die.

Recognizing the urgency of limiting the spread of the virus, Kaiser Permanente awarded a \$25 million dollar grant to the national affordable housing nonprofit Enterprise Community Partners to work in partnership with the State of California to support the state's Homekey program.

The Kaiser Permanente funding is a game changer for putting vulnerable Californians on a pathway to safe, affordable, and healthy homes."

– James Yelen, a program director for Enterprise Community Partners in Northern California

Homekey was created to help people like Maes. It provided funding to cities and counties to buy and rehab hotels, motels, and vacant apartment buildings to convert them into interim or permanent long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness.

"The Kaiser Permanente funding is a game changer for putting vulnerable Californians on a pathway to safe, affordable, and healthy homes," said James Yelen, a program director for Enterprise Community Partners in Northern California. The funding supports operating subsidies, wraparound services, and technical assistance for 22 Homekey properties and up to 1,000 new permanent housing units across the state, from San Bernardino to Sacramento. Among those properties is a former San Jose motel that Maes now calls home.

"They give us meals here, and I'm eating better and starting to gain back some of the weight I lost from chemo," Maes said. "I can lock the door, know that I'm safe, and I don't have to sleep with one eye open."

Across the nation, people of color are disproportionately affected by homelessness and housing insecurity, a situation made worse by the pandemic. Our focus on addressing homelessness and affordable housing aims to both improve health and advance equity in the communities we serve.



In addition to supporting the Homekey program, in 2020, Kaiser Permanente supported safe, stable, affordable housing on many other fronts including: \$14.2 million in impact housing investments throughout Northern California to preserve 650 units of affordable housing.

Support of Community Solutions'
"Built for Zero" initiative to help

Northern California communities adopt data-driven tools and technologies to end homelessness and the conditions that create it.

In Sacramento, a commitment of **up** to \$25 million in impact investments for affordable housing and \$5 million in grant funding to support emergency shelter capacity.



The COVID-19 pandemic caused widespread business closures, a steep rise in unemployment, and a surge in the number of people who did not have consistent access to enough food. The California Association of Food Banks estimates that 1 in 4 Californians is now struggling with food insecurity.

With a commitment to helping people access and afford healthy food, Kaiser Permanente responded in several ways. We started with a \$1.5 million grant to Stephen and Ayesha Curry's Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation to deliver 150,000 healthy restaurant meals to Oakland students and families over the course of 6 weeks.

The effort, in collaboration with the Oakland Unified School District and World Central Kitchen, paid local restaurants to create the meals; enabling many restaurants to stay in business and keep workers employed, while supporting Oakland families in need.

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- Stephen Curry, co-founder of Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation

pillars in the foundation, was set in place," said Stephen Curry, co-founder of Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation.

Kaiser Permanente also awarded 18 grants of \$95,000 each to Northern California food banks, community clinics, and family resource centers to fund innovative ways to enroll eligible households in CalFresh, California's food stamp program. The \$1.7 million in funding helped these nonprofits serve the growing number of people in the community needing food assistance, many of whom lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

For example, Kaiser Permanente's support of the San Francisco Marin Food Bank enabled it to bolster its efforts to reach out to Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ communities, helping 1,400 eligible households apply for CalFresh benefits.

"We know these communities are more at risk for hunger, especially during the pandemic," said Liliana Sandoval, who leads CalFresh enrollment efforts in San Francisco for the San Francisco Marin Food Bank.



In 2020, Kaiser Permanente also addressed food insecurity with the following grants and initiatives:

# Funding for the California Association of Food Banks to secure state

funding for emergency food disaster assistance and the California WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Association to ensure WIC benefits are provided to eligible families.

A text campaign targeting eligible low-income Kaiser Permanente members to help them quickly and easily apply for CalFresh.

Donations of tens of thousands of pounds of unserved nutritious hospital meals from 17 Kaiser Permanente Northern California medical centers to food pantries and homeless shelters.



Even before COVID-19 hit, students at Hamilton K-8 School in Fresno faced serious challenges. Nine out of 10 came from low-income families, and some were dealing with the trauma of homelessness, deportations, family substance abuse, and violence on the streets and in their homes.

When the pandemic forced school districts to stop in-person learning and move to the online world, the situation got worse.

"School was their safe place, and that was gone," said Pearl Heppner, executive director of Family Foundations Counseling Services, which provides counseling to students and staff at Hamilton with grant support from Kaiser Permanente. "Many students felt isolated. There was huge anxiety, depression, and feelings of loss, and parents could not always understand what was going on with their children."

When the Hamilton campus closed, Family Foundations quickly pivoted to holding counseling sessions with students online. Before the pandemic,

We're making a difference for them, and it's amazing to be a part of that."

- Pearl Heppiner, executive director of Family Foundations Counseling Services

it provided in-person individual and group counseling, plus classroom interventions.

Family Foundations Counseling Services is one of 15 organizations across Northern California that received a total of \$1.5 million in Resilience Initiative grants from Kaiser Permanente to provide mental health counseling for middle and high school students.

"We provide a safe place for students to look at and process their feelings, and we help them build skills to bring down their anxiety. When needed, we connect them to community resources," said Heppner. "We're making a difference for them, and it's amazing to be a part of that."

Counselors also take advantage of Kaiser Permanente's Thriving Schools Resilience in School Environments program to support teacher, staff, and student wellness.

In addition to grants supporting school resilience, in 2020, Kaiser Permanente also supported mental health and wellness in schools through these initiatives:



#### Mindfulness grants

Grant funding for 3 community-based organizations brings mindfulness training to 10 school districts and 5 additional schools. Substantial evidence shows mindfulness training helps students combat the negative impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), decrease stress and anxiety, increase ability to focus attention, emotionally regulate, and improve interpersonal relationships.

### Resilience in School **Environments (RISE)**

Resilience in School Environments (RISE) is part of Kaiser Permanente's Thriving Schools. RISE deploys virtual and in-person resources to empower schools to cultivate practices that strengthen the social and emotional health of school employees and students.





#### Kaiser Permanente **Educational Theatre**

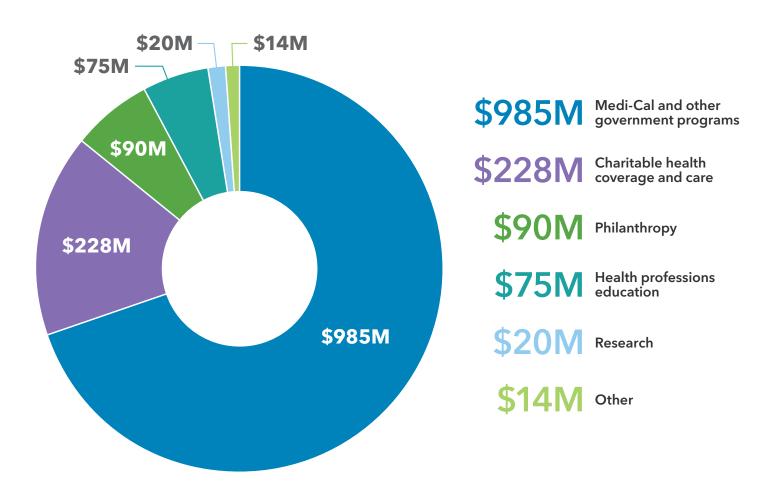
Kaiser Permanente Educational Theatre offers free online programming for schools and communities to help address some of the many challenges students face during the pandemic. Ghosted addresses student stress, anxiety, depression, and healthy coping strategies. RISE UP is a learning session for teachers and school staff to foster resilience using a trauma-sensitive approach to interactions with students. Nightmare on Puberty St. promotes healthy ways for students to cope with stress, depression, and thoughts of suicide, as well as tools for dealing with racism, discrimination, and microaggressions.

# By the Numbers

### 2020 Northern California Community Benefit Investment

\$1.41B **Total Community Investment** 

Hospitals



<sup>\*</sup>As reported in SB 697, a state-required report for all nonprofit hospitals.

154K

youth and adults reached through Educational Theatre

\$90M

in grants, donations, and direct support

138K

people received Medical Financial Assistance

**\$2M** 

in employee and corporate donations to nonprofits through KP Gives

1,917

medical residents trained in our Graduate Medical **Education programs** 

people trained at our school of Allied **Health Sciences**