FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$500,000 awarded to Fresno Cradle to Career and 11 of its local home visitation partners for Community-Based Opioid Use Disorder Prevention and Education

A total of $9.9 million awarded statewide to work with communities of color to increase understanding of substance use disorder, stigma reduction and increased access to effective treatments

Fresno, CA – Sierra Health Foundation announced that the Fresno Cradle to Career (Fresno C2C) Home Visitation Collaborative Network was awarded $500,000 to support 11 local community organizations. The purpose of the grant is to strengthen prevention, education and stigma reduction efforts for people with, or exposure to, opioid use disorder (OUD) and substance use disorders (SUD), particularly in communities of color. Training for nurse and paraprofessional home visitors throughout Fresno County will be provided, along with the testing of culturally sensitive approaches with families.

Partner organizations include: Centro La Familia Advocacy Inc., Central Valley Children Services Network, Comprehensive Youth Services, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission - Early Head Start, Exceptional Parents Unlimited, Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries, Fresno Council on Child Abuse Prevention, Fresno County Department of Public Health, Marjaree Mason Center, Reading and Beyond, and Westside Family Preservation Services Network.

Fresno C2C’s Home Visitation Collaborative Network focuses on the county-wide expansion and coordination of home visitation programs and services and transitioning those efforts from intervention visits to prevention-oriented visits. This Network has demonstrated trusted relationships in communities of color that have experienced disproportionate penalization for SUD and historical trauma, particularly in health systems. The need to strengthen Home Visitation was identified in the Fresno Cradle to Career Preconception to Age 5 Blueprint for Advocacy and Funding (August 2019).

“The intention of this prevention and education project is whole person – and whole community – care,” said Chet P. Hewitt, president and CEO of The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, which manages the MAT Access Points Project. “The selected organizations have established relationships with their community members built on trust, cultural understanding, and a commitment to integrate wraparound services at a neighborhood level – these attributes provide a powerful foundation to strengthen and grow local efforts to tackle opioid use disorder.”

The Fresno C2C Partnership is a unique cross-sector network that brings together 70+ leaders, directors, managers and staff from ten sectors to collaboratively improve educational and health outcomes for all children in Fresno County. Fresno C2C provides the civic infrastructure needed for evidenced based decision-making, collaborative action, and alignment of resources. Fresno County Superintendent of Schools (FCSS) plays a key role by providing financial and in-kind support to Fresno C2C and The Foundation @ FCOE serves as the fiscal agent. We invite interviews with Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher (Administrator, Educational Leadership and Development) on-site at the FCSS office (downtown).
Learn more about Fresno Cradle to Career at www.fresnoc2c.org.

Learn more about Fresno County Superintendent of Schools at www.fcoe.org.

Learn more about the MAT Access Points Project at www.mataccesspoints.org.