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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALOPTIMA HEALTH AWARDS \$5.1 MILLION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN ORANGE COUNTY**

*Six Organizations to Receive Funding to Train More Providers to Deliver
Mental Health Services for Orange County’s Medi-Cal Population*

ORANGE, Calif. (November 13, 2024) — To better support members experiencing mental health challenges, CalOptima Health has awarded \$5.1 million in grant funding to increase the behavioral health workforce as part of our ongoing Provider Workforce Development Initiative.

Six organizations will receive funding to help address critical behavioral health workforce shortages, enhance training and education opportunities, and ultimately improve access to essential mental health and substance use disorder services for CalOptima Health members. The grantees include:

- Child Guidance Center Inc.
- Children’s Hospital Orange County
- John Henry Foundation
- Seneca Family of Agencies
- Special Service for Groups Inc.
- Western Youth Services

“CalOptima Health’s commitment to investing in Orange County’s health care workforce development continues with this funding focused on behavioral health,” said Michael Hunn, CEO of CalOptima Health. “These grants not only address the urgent need for more behavioral health professionals but also to help strengthen the community-based organizations working tirelessly to provide our diverse and growing Medi-Cal population with compassionate, high-quality care.”

This funding builds on the initial \$24.6 million CalOptima Health [awarded](#) in April 2024 as part of a larger five-year, \$50 million Provider Workforce Development Initiative aimed at enhancing the health care workforce across Orange County. The initiative is focused on increasing access to care by supporting the recruitment, training and retention of qualified health professionals. With the distribution of the remaining \$20.3 million still ahead, CalOptima Health will consider areas of greatest need to ensure equitable and accessible health care for our diverse membership.

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About CalOptima Health

A county organized health system, CalOptima Health provides quality health care coverage for low-income children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County, California. CalOptima Health’s mission is to serve member health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person. CalOptima Health serves nearly 914,000 members with a network of 8,300 primary care doctors and specialists and 40 acute and rehab hospitals.