

City of Vacaville

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VACAVILLE AWARDED \$450,000 GRANT BY SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION

The City of Vacaville's REACH Coalition has been awarded a \$450,000 grant by the Sierra Health Foundation to implement a variety of community strategies designed to increase the level of youth involvement in various City functions, such as government and schools.

"Naturally we're very pleased and excited that the Foundation awarded us such a wonderful grant," said City Manager Laura Kuhn. "The City has always been committed to its youth and their futures. Receiving this grant just confirms our level of commitment and shows that our efforts are recognized by others."

The grant will be distributed over three years beginning January 2010. The City had originally applied for a \$600,000 grant, but because of a weak economy, the amount awarded was reduced to \$450,000, according to a Sierra Health Foundation representative. The City had already received a \$75,000 one-year planning grant, which was used to put together a proposal to Sierra Health Foundation for the three-year grant.

"The amount (the Foundation) approved is smaller than the requested amount due to the economic conditions and not because of the quality of the proposal," said Matt Cervantes, Program Officer for Sierra Health Foundation.

According to Carrie Dettmer, Senior Program Coordinator overseeing the REACH Coalition, this is a great opportunity for the City, the Vacaville and Travis Unified School Districts, and their partners at the Youth Roundtable to have a major impact on the youth of Vacaville.

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“We have a dedicated group of both public and private organizations already in place working to address youth issues from the top down,” Dettmer said, “but this grant will allow us to address the issues from the ground up. We want our youth to have input on any number of issues facing them, the City and the school districts. We want to make sure they have a voice in our community.”

Designed for youth between the ages of 10 and 15 years old, the REACH Coalition will work on a variety of community strategies over the next three years. For more information about the Vacaville REACH Coalition, contact Dettmer at (707) 469-6619.

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