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RECORD NUMBER OF NONPROFIT GRANT APPLICANTS SEEK HEALTHCARE FUNDING

REDWOOD CITY — A record 49 nonprofit organizations have made requests totaling twice the \$2 million allocated for the Sequoia Healthcare District's 2010-11 Caring Community healthcare grant program, district CEO Lee Michelson announced.

Caring Community grants are prioritized funding in four areas of community health — Youth and school health, programs that serve basic needs, mental health programs and those that support “healthy, active, engaged older adults.”

Sequoia Healthcare district has provided approximately \$9.5 million in community funding to more than 100 nonprofit organizations since the program began in 1997.

The coming year's \$2 million grant budget also is the largest in district history. The 49 applicants have requested more than \$4 million in funding, Michelson said.

A district board grant review subcommittee has been reviewing applications and will present its recommendations to the full board for ratification or amendment at the board's April 7 meeting.

The Caring Community Grant Program subcommittee includes Sequoia Healthcare District board members Don Horsley and Kim Griffin and five community leaders, Pat Brown, CEO of Redwood City 2020, physician Jerry Shefren, M.D., health consultant and Oak Knoll Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization officer Karen How, Mental Health Association of San Mateo County Clinical Supervisor Ruth West-Gorrin and district resident Ann Wilkinson.

Grant selection is a five-month process that begins with public solicitation of applications each December. Grantees are due to be announced next month and the first half-year grant payments presented at a Caring Community reception in Belmont on June 15.

Sequoia Healthcare District supports community-based health care initiatives in Redwood City, Atherton, Belmont, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, San Carlos, Woodside and parts of San Mateo and Foster City from Skyline to the bay. It also funds Samaritan House and North Fair Oaks free clinics, a nursing education program at Cañada College, placement of automated external defibrillators in public places and the activities of the Sequoia Hospital Foundation.

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