

# HEALTH FOUNDATION OF SOUTH FLORIDA

Health Foundation of South Florida (HFSF) is a nonprofit grant making organization supporting programs that improve the health of underserved populations in Miami Dade, Broward and Monroe Counties. The Foundation serves as a channel for information gathering, convening and collaborating on health issues impacting South Florida.

## Goals

- Reduce health care barriers and increase access to community-based primary health services, including oral health and behavioral health.
- Promote healthy lifestyles and preventive health measures.
- Improve organizational effectiveness and efficiency of non-profit health service providers.
- Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of health service delivery systems for the poor and uninsured and advance public policy changes to that end.

## Priority Focus Areas

To increase the impact of its community investments, the Foundation identified four major priority areas for funding: healthy lifestyles, preventive health measures, oral health and primary care.

### Healthy Lifestyles

The aim is to increase physical activity levels and improve eating habits among children and adults through the implementation of proven educational programs and environmental policy and system changes. The Foundation is working toward creating an environment where access to healthy foods and opportunities to engage in physical activity are provided. Public policy changes are needed to mandate daily physical education in schools, establish nutrition and physical activity standards for child care centers and after-school programs as well as allow families participating in the Women, Infants and Children program to redeem fruit and vegetable vouchers at farmers' markets.

### Preventive Health Measures

The goals are to increase the percentage of women who are screened for breast and cervical cancer; the percentage of women and men who get colorectal cancer screening; as well as increase hypertension and cholesterol screenings. Policy changes are needed to increase funding for programs for Breast and Cervical Cancer, establishing a Colorectal Cancer program and insurance coverage for preventive screenings.

### Oral Health

The focus is to increase the number of children and adults who receive oral health care. Strategies include expanding the capacity



of community-based dental clinics and programs, training pediatricians and family physicians on how to do oral assessments and apply fluoride varnishes, funding mobile dental clinics and supporting school-based dental programs. Both preventive and restorative care are prioritized. Policy activities include advocating for higher Medicaid reimbursement rates for dentists and more independent authority for hygienists.

### Primary Care

Strategies and activities include increasing the number of children and adults who have access to a Medical Home, defined as a place where patients receive comprehensive, family centered, coordinated, compassionate and culturally effective care. Emphasis is also placed on Chronic Disease Management, in particular management of diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Other strategies include support for clinics for the homeless and improving efficiency and effectiveness of community health centers.



## Strategic Initiatives

The Foundation launched a \$7.5 million multi-year Healthy Aging Regional Collaborative addressing the quality of life of older adults by targeting physical activity, fall prevention, chronic disease self-management and depression. In addition, over \$500,000 has been provided in support of the integration of electronic health records into federally qualified health centers. The Foundation continuously researches emerging community health needs to inform its strategic initiatives.



## Public Policy

Health Foundation of South Florida recognizes that public policy is essential to achieving meaningful changes and to accomplishing its mission and goals for a healthier South Florida. The Foundation seeks to assist its grantees, South Florida health coalitions, community activists and policymakers in gathering relevant data and information, analyzing research findings, identifying policy options and supporting advocacy efforts that lead to improved access to quality health care for all South Floridians and reduced expenditures for taxpayers.

## Technical Assistance

There is a great opportunity to bring about enduring progress in improving health through technology. The Foundation has committed its experience, knowledge and energies to collaborate with others and provide assistance. For example:

- 90 organizations received grants to expand information technology capacity. The funding totaled more than \$5 million for technology infrastructure assessments and grant support to improve organizational effectiveness and capacity

- Collaborating on community grant applications to state and federal agencies. Among the programs:

1. Communities Putting Prevention to Work: The Foundation helped bring \$14.7 million to the Miami-Dade County Health Department
2. Assisted Health Choice Network as lead agency to garner \$8.5 million for a Regional Extension Center
3. Working with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs to bring \$1 million to the state for a Healthy Aging Chronic Disease Self-Management program

## History

Health Foundation of South Florida's roots trace back to 1960, when Cedars Medical Center of Miami was founded as a charitable hospital. It became a grant making foundation in 1993, when majority interest of the hospital was sold to Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corporation. The Foundation received an endowment from the sale and was renamed Health Foundation of South Florida. In 2001, the Foundation sold its remaining interest in Cedars, increasing its endowment from approximately \$50 million to more than \$130 million. Since 1993, the Foundation has awarded more than \$84 million in grants and program support.

## Collaborating to Make a Difference

*The most dramatic and sustainable improvements invariably involve collaboration. Health Foundation of South Florida actively seeks community partners to leverage resources and maximize the impact of health services and programs. If you are part of an effort to improve health, please contact us to see how we can work together to improve the health of South Floridians.*

