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Contact: Arielle Goren  
[arielle@junostrategies.com](mailto:arielle@junostrategies.com)  
(212) 717-5863

## HELLMAN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2017 COLLABORATIVE CHANGE INITIATIVE GRANTS TO FOUR AMBITIOUS CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS IN THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION FIELDS

*Focusing on Delivering Healthy Foods to Combat Chronic Illness, Tackling an Insidious Epidemic, and Creating a More Diverse Teaching Corps, These Local Public-Private Collaborations Are Promoting Equity Across the Bay Area*

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA** — Today, the Hellman Foundation announced its latest round of grantees through its **Hellman Collaborative Change Initiative (HCCI)**, an initiative designed to support collaborations to scale bold strategies that are tackling some of our most intractable social issues. These grants will support and grow work that is not only innovative, but that brings together both meaningful financial and organizational support to accomplish ambitious goals.

HCCI was created to bolster innovative, creative thinking that unites unlikely partners under a common goal: solving some of the toughest issues facing the San Francisco Bay Area. It is built on the thinking that no one sector (public, private, or non-profit) can address a thorny issue, particularly given how deeply rooted and systemic most problems are. With the belief that only diverse perspectives and common goals among all stakeholders can truly enact meaningful change, HCCI looks to support and scale homegrown solutions to some of the Bay Area's biggest challenges.

This year's four grantees all address inequities in the health and education spaces. Whether by delivering free, fresh produce and connecting health services to those suffering from chronic illness or to help prevent childhood obesity, working to improve the pipeline of minority teachers in the San Francisco Unified School District, or tackling an infectious disease that is one of the most prevalent among marginalized Californians, all of this year's grant recipients are already showing success at delivering more equitable solutions to Bay Area residents most in need.

"While the Bay Area is the global epicenter of opportunity and innovation, there are critical unmet needs and enduring challenges here, particularly when it comes to persistent health disparities and lack of educational opportunities," said **Susan Hirsch, Executive Director of the Hellman Foundation**. "These collaborations — in addition to working across sectors and addressing some of our most pressing social problems — are ambitious projects led by passionate advocates who are doing important, bold work."

The Hellman Collaborative Change Initiative (HCCI) was created to honor legendary San Francisco philanthropist, Warren Hellman. As his daughter and current Board President, **Dr. Tricia Hellman Gibbs**, describes it: “Our directors and leadership staff all brainstormed together on how to emulate Dad’s unique genius for bringing together people with many disparate, sometimes bitterly opposing viewpoints, and helping them to overcome differences and find common ground. HCCI is our creative solution to the formidable challenge of filling his giant shoes!”

Since 2014, HCCI has awarded nearly \$5 million to enable public-private partnerships in Alameda and San Francisco Counties, helping to scale exciting solutions to some of the biggest disparities and equity gaps in health, education, and opportunity. This year’s grantees include:

- **San Francisco Educator Pathway Coalition (SFEPCC)** — This collaboration is driving a local and transformative solution, coordinating a pathway of services, education and resources so that homegrown San Francisco educators can thrive. A group of a dozen organizations — from public entities such as San Francisco Unified School District, to City College of San Francisco, from non-profit youth development organizations, to teacher preparation and credentialing entities including the University of San Francisco School of Education — this collaboration is addressing the local teacher shortage while recognizing that the district serves upwards of 80% students of color while employing a teaching force that is nearly 50% white. The current pathway to careers in education exists as a narrowing alley, in which many candidates of color are lost along the long journey to becoming a credentialed teacher. Their goal is to widen this alley into a more accessible and equitable path.
- **End Hep C SF** — San Francisco is profoundly impacted by the hepatitis C virus (HCV), a chronic liver disease that can lead to liver cancer and death. Like many infectious diseases, HCV disproportionately affects marginalized populations, specifically those who inject drugs, are homeless or marginally housed, have a history of incarceration, are transgender, or are living with HIV, as well as people of color (most notably, African-Americans.) The availability of highly effective HCV treatment has transformed care, as those infected can typically be cured in three months or less via a simple oral regimen with minimal side effects. Nevertheless, despite being equipped with the tools to break the cycle of forward transmission and ultimately eradicate this virus, many barriers remain in providing care to these difficult-to-reach infected populations. End Hep C SF’s mission is to support all San Franciscans living with and at risk for HCV, to maximize their health and wellness while eliminating HCV-related inequities. This will be achieved through prevention, education, testing, treatment, and linkage to reduce incidence, morbidity, and mortality related to HCV. As the program title suggests, its ultimate, albeit ambitious, goal is to eradicate the disease altogether in San Francisco County.
- **Food As Medicine Collaborative** — It is estimated that 40-70% of patients served by San Francisco Health Network are food insecure. Coupled with the fact that low income

patients tend to suffer from chronic conditions such as hypertension and diabetes in greater numbers, Food As Medicine seeks to bridge the divide between healthcare systems and the food community by promoting “food as medicine” through clinic-based food pharmacies. Food pharmacies represent a compelling opportunity for healthcare to engage patients around healthy eating, while providing a tangible intervention that tackles food insecurity as a major barrier to their health. Providing food resources in this context also helps to reduce stigma associated with receiving food aid by pairing it with a medical care plan, and supports sustained nutritional behavior change by providing wraparound services — such as cooking instruction, recipe sharing, and nutritional counseling — in addition to free, nutritious foods.

- **Healthy Food, Healthy Families** — The Healthy Food, Healthy Families initiative invites community leaders, healthcare providers, and a host of other partners to reclaim the food knowledge, traditions, and practices that have promoted individual, family, and community health for years. By partnering with one another to co-create new local structures, strategies, and agreements combining the best of what we know about nutrition and health with the best of what we know about nurturing community and building power, Healthy Food, Healthy Families aims to make Alameda County’s low income communities healthier by designing and implementing neighborhood-specific campaigns that increase the demand for and consumption of healthy foods, particularly by children at high risk for obesity and diabetes.

In the very spirit of collaboration that drives the mission of the HCCI, the Hellman Foundation invites a distinguished group of advisors to take part in the program development and candidate selection process. Those individuals are:

- **Mary V. Hughes**, President of Hughes & Company and founder of Close the Gap CA
- **Dan Kingsley**, Founder and Managing Partner of SKS Investments
- **Curtiss Sarikey**, Chief of Staff, Office of the Superintendent at Oakland Unified School District
- **Sean Elsbernd**, Deputy State Director to US Senator Dianne Feinstein
- **Susan Mayer Hirsch**, Founder and CEO, Hirsch & Associates
- **Ben Hur**, Partner at Kecker, Van Nest & Peters, LLP
- **Dr. Sandra R. Hernández**, President & CEO of the California HealthCare Foundation

### **About the Hellman Foundation**

The Hellman Foundation is a private foundation established in 2011, operating in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Hellman Foundation is rooted in the abounding generosity of Warren and Chris Hellman, who modeled a version of philanthropy based in curiosity, respect, and a commitment to local communities, values they nurtured and encouraged in the next generation of family members, who carry this creative philanthropic vision forward. Since its founding, the Foundation has awarded over \$58 million in grants.

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