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United Way to Boost Access to Mental Health, Substance Abuse Support
*\$900,000 Grant Will Provide Culturally Relevant Resources to Vulnerable
Communities*

REDDING, CA (February 22, 2024) – United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was awarded a \$900,000 grant to increase access to equitable mental health support in Northern California communities.

The grant is funded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and was awarded to United Way through DHCS' Behavioral Health Recovery Services Project. The project, Health Equity in Access to Behavioral Health Recovery Services (HEAR US), is working to make mental and behavioral health recovery services more accessible to Californians.

Through *HEAR US*, UWNC will use its 24-hour non-emergency helpline, 211 NorCal, to screen for mental health and substance abuse disorders and provide culturally relevant referrals and resources throughout its nine-county region.

Also, UWNC will increase access to mental health information through outreach initiatives, fund local organizations to reach the most vulnerable communities, and support training for service providers to increase access to culturally appropriate services for people of color and LGBTQ+ community members.

"This funding will bring the north state some much-needed resources to address mental health challenges," said Melody Proebstel, Senior Director of Community Engagement at UWNC. "Wildfires and COVID have exacerbated the needs that far exceed our communities' demands for support."

Grant funding is through June 2025. To learn more about UWNC's work in health, education, financial stability, and crisis services, visit www.norcalunitedway.org.

About UWNC:

UWNC was established in Redding in 1953 and primarily serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity. Its mission is to fight for the education, income, and health of all residents in the community. UWNC is active in disaster relief and recovery, raises funds for nonprofit agencies, and operates human services helplines in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties, accessed by dialing 211. For more information about UWNC, visit www.norcalunitedway.org.