



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contacts:**

Emily Lynn Anderson for Health Center Partners

[HCP@havasformula.com](mailto:HCP@havasformula.com)

619-234-0345

**Health Quality Partners of Southern California Receives \$270,000 from Susan G. Komen San Diego to Expand Breast Health Diagnostic Services for Safety Net Population**

*Grant Targets Low-income, Underinsured and Uninsured Women under 40 Seeking Care through Regional Community Health Centers*

SAN DIEGO—(July XX, 2016)—[Health Quality Partners of Southern California](#) (HQP), a leader in health program development and implementation and a subsidiary of [Health Center Partners](#) (HCP), today announced that it will receive \$270,000 from [Susan G. Komen San Diego](#) to support the delivery of breast health diagnostic services for woman under the age of 40 who are primarily low-income, underinsured or uninsured, and seeking health care from a community health center in San Diego County. The 2016 grant represents the 17th consecutive year HQP has received this funding and illustrates the important role HCP member health centers play in supporting Susan G. Komen’s goal of providing preventive and diagnostic care to high risk women.

“We are extremely proud and honored to collaborate with Susan G. Komen San Diego and our 17 member health centers to deliver critical breast health diagnostic services to women who otherwise may not have access to preventive screenings and related clinical services,” stated Nicole Howard, executive vice president of Health Quality Partners. “This consecutive funding ensures HCP members can continue to deliver high quality care to more than 750,000 patients served at 125 sites across Southern California as well as refer patients to outside specialists for a variety of diagnostic services not currently offered at our health centers, such as mammograms, ultrasounds, MRIs and biopsies.”

Part of Susan G. Komen San Diego’s 2016-2017 Community Grants program, the funds for HQP will enable eligible patients to access mammography, surgical consultations, breast biopsies, ultrasounds, and ancillary services at no or minimal cost. Except for skin cancers, breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. affecting one in eight women. In San Diego alone, six women are told they have breast cancer every day. Early detection and effective treatment are imperative and have contributed to a 34 percent decrease in mortality rates in breast cancer since 1990. HCP helps ensure all women, regardless of socioeconomic status, can take advantage of the most effective preventative, diagnostic and screening protocols.

“For nearly two decades, we have collaborated with Health Center Partners and Health Quality Partners to support our goal of reducing disparities in breast cancer mortality in our community. This year alone,

our Community Grants total \$770,000, with more than one-third of the funds allocated to HCP members,” noted Laura Farmer Sherman, president and CEO, Susan G. Komen San Diego. “Through its consortium of community health centers, HCP is instrumental in reaching the safety net population and bridging gaps in service that could otherwise prevent women from getting much needed and often life-saving treatment.”

“Having lost a sister to breast cancer at the age of 34, I know all too well how important it is for women under 40 to have access to resources for diagnostic and treatment services,” remarked Natasha Riley, breast health program manager, Vista Community Clinic, a member of Health Center Partners. “The services provided by Health Quality Partners of Southern California and Susan G. Komen San Diego help ensure our patients receive life-saving breast cancer diagnostic and treatment services.”

#### **About Health Quality Partners**

Health Quality Partners of Southern California (HQP), a subsidiary of Health Center Partners of Southern California (HCP), supports community health centers and other safety-net partners in taking the best possible care of their patients by developing a broad portfolio of health quality outcomes, innovative, collaborative, efficient and effective access, and quality programs that rely on real-time data analytics, research and education. HQP believes that quality health care is a right and collaboration and resources are essential to meeting this basic need. For more information, visit [www.hqpsocal.org](http://www.hqpsocal.org).

#### **About Health Center Partners**

Health Center Partners (formerly Council of Community Clinics) and its subsidiaries serve as the nexus for its members and partners to transform primary care through the power of innovation and collaboration. Our health policy, public affairs and advocacy efforts enhance the development of and recognition for our members who enrich the patient experience and improve the human condition through access to quality health care and related services for their diverse communities, with an emphasis on low-income and uninsured populations. For more information, visit [www.hcpsocal.org](http://www.hcpsocal.org).

#### **About Susan G. Komen San Diego:**

Since its inception in 1995, Komen San Diego has raised more than \$14 million to fund local non-profits who provide everything from free diagnostic mammograms, meal delivery, temporary financial aid, transportation and more. Seventy-five percent of every dollar raised in San Diego stays in San Diego County to fund breast health services for uninsured and underinsured women and their families. The remaining 25 percent funds international breast cancer research. In fact, next to the U.S. government, Susan G. Komen® is the largest funder of breast cancer research in the world. For more information, please visit [www.komensandiego.org](http://www.komensandiego.org). Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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