



**CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

PRESS RELEASE

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**LOCAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$10M INVESTMENT
OVER TEN YEARS IN CITY OF EL MONTE**

LOS ANGELES—California Community Foundation (CCF) announced Tuesday it will invest about \$10 million in the City of El Monte over the next decade, the foundation's single largest place-based investment in its 90-year history. The Community Building Initiative will target its resources in three neighborhoods within El Monte in the form of grants and loans to nonprofit groups and partnerships with local government.

"This initiative is unique in that it tackles both the hardware and software needed to improve quality of life, and makes that happen through collaboration with the public, private and nonprofit sectors," said Antonia Hernández, President and CEO at the foundation.

The Community Building Initiative is a pilot project that seeks to revitalize El Monte by simultaneously focusing on improving physical infrastructure, engaging residents and developing their leadership, as well as providing better access to social services.

The foundation will invest approximately \$1 million each year in three preliminary target areas within El Monte including Little Five Points, Tyler Corridor and Ramona/Valley over the next ten years in the form of grants, low-interest loan guarantees and land trust investments.

El Monte was selected based on demographic and income characteristics, the amount of available land controlled by local government and existing efforts by the city to revise its General Plan that entailed extensive research and community outreach as well as resident involvement.

"The future of El Monte is bright. Our community has been engaged in the update of our General Plan that will be the blueprint for creating a more vibrant and safe community. Through the Community Building Initiative and partnership with the California Community Foundation, we hope to demonstrate how public/non-profit partnerships can work together to revitalize a

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community,” said El Monte City Mayor Ernest Gutierrez. Partners include the City of El Monte, Amigos de los Rios, a community-based organization, and the Transportation & Land Use Collaborative of Southern California, a policy and advocacy group. The foundation will also partner with various local elected officials in order to leverage its investments with future state and federal resources targeted for El Monte.

The foundation on Tuesday also unveiled a request for proposals for its Neighborhood Grants program that provides up to \$25,000 to local nonprofit groups to support various projects. The RFP can be found on the foundation’s Web site at www.calfund.org.

While El Monte may be best known to the public as the home of Longo Toyota, the world’s largest auto dealership, what is less familiar are the dramatically changing demographics and challenges, as well as opportunities, faced by the city. Latinos currently make up over 70% of the 125,800 population, followed by a growing number of Asian Pacific Islanders (20%), with over half of the entire population being foreign-born. Health challenges abound. For example, El Monte’s obesity rate is 25%, four percentage points higher than that of L.A. County. On the housing end, almost half of all housing units in El Monte are deemed overcrowded, compared with 23% for L.A. County.

Founded in 1915, the California Community Foundation is one of the leading philanthropic organizations in Los Angeles County, managing more than \$1.3 billion in assets. Each year, it grants over \$100 million as investments in the future of our local communities. The foundation partners with individual donors and actively supports nonprofit organizations to address diverse and dynamic needs of our communities. The expertise and commitment of CCF enables individuals, families and organizations to fulfill their charitable goals and dreams. Interviews with Ms. Hernández and partners are available upon request. To learn more about the Community Building Initiative and the foundation, visit www.calfund.org.

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