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By and For Our Community: Confluence Health and Wenatchee Valley Medical Group Announce Community Health Partnership Grant Application and New Process

North Central Washington: Confluence Health and the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group today announced that their Community Health Partnership Fund would begin accepting applications on Sunday, June 1st to provide grants for local community health-related causes and organizations.

The grant is funded jointly by Confluence Health and the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group (WVMG), the largest physician group affiliated with Confluence Health. Created to help support causes and organizations in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, and Okanogan counties, the fund aims to award up to \$500,000 each year in grants that serve the community.

"Confluence Health has devoted itself to the health and wellness of our region, with our central mission being to provide *local care by and for our community,*" remarked Dr. Andrew Jones, CEO of Confluence Health. "Investing in the beautiful place that we call home through these grants is just one of the ways we can help contribute to achieving that mission. This funding has done so much good through so many deserving groups, and we're excited to see that continue."

Though the fund has been around for many years, this cycle marks several changes in both eligibility and process in response to the incredible interest in the grants. Over the past two years, the number of applications has tripled, showing strong support for the grant program and its impact on the people of North Central Washington.

"As a part of our effort to focus on funding community health initiatives in our region, we've transitioned the name of the program from the 'Community Partnership Fund' to the 'Community Health Partnership Fund' to better reflect our selection process and focus," explained Suzanne Carté-Cocroft, chief philanthropy officer for Confluence Health who oversees the Confluence Health Foundation.

Previously administered by the Community Foundation of North Central Washington, the Confluence Health Foundation also began managing the fund directly starting May 1, 2025.

"As we work to support health initiatives for the local community, the Confluence Health and Wenatchee Valley Medical Group Community Health Partnership Fund has two key focus areas: health and wellness and the social determinants of health," continued Carté-Cocroft. "The 'health and wellness' focus provides funding for projects that directly support comprehensive health and wellness access and activities. The 'social determinants of health' focus, however, looks at initiatives addressing such areas as food and housing security, early education, economic stability, and social support systems. While like our criteria in the past, this transition to two key focus areas will allow us to better make selections directly supporting the vision and goals for this grant program."

To be eligible for the grant under the new process, applicants must be a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, or Okanogan counties. Each organization is limited to one grant proposal per yearly cycle. Churches and faith-based organizations, even if the grant applied for is intended for non-religious purposes, are not eligible.

Those interested in applying for a grant who do not meet the criteria for the Community Health Partnership Fund are encouraged to separately apply instead for the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group Community Support or the Confluence Health Community Support programs which are open to both for-profit and non-profit organizations alike. More

information on these separate programs are available on the <u>community support section of the Confluence Health</u> website.

Applications for Community Health Partnership Fund grants will be available online on the <u>Confluence Health</u> <u>Foundation website</u> starting June 1, 2025, with an application deadline of July 31, 2025. Any questions about the application or the process can be directed to the Confluence Health Foundation, either by email at <u>foundation@confluencehealth.org</u> or by calling (509) 436-6275.

Additionally, to help navigate some of the changes to the application in terms of process and eligibility, the Confluence Health Foundation will be providing an informational webinar hosted by Carté-Cocroft on Wednesday, June 11th from 1pm – 2pm. The online webinar will provide an overview of the Community Health Partnership Fund and how local non-profits can use the funding to make an impact on community health in our region, along with learning about the application process and asking any questions applicants might have. More information is available on the Confluence Health Foundation website and those interested can register now at the link provided to secure their place.

"The Wenatchee Valley Medical Group looks forward each year to our partnership with Confluence Health to fund this grant program due to the wonderful, community-focused awards distributed each cycle," reflected Dr. Jennifer Jorgensen, president of the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group. "We encourage everyone who meets the criteria to submit their application for how their organization will be able to use this funding to make a real impact in the health and wellness of our community."

About Confluence Health

Confluence Health serves the largest geographic region of any healthcare system in Washington State, covering over 12,000 square miles of Okanogan, Grant, Douglas, and Chelan counties. Confluence Health is one of only two locally-lead healthcare systems in the state with the purpose of maintaining availability and access to high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services for North Central Washington. The Confluence Health Board of Directors provides governance for Confluence Health and includes nine community board members and six physician board members.

About the Wenatchee Valley Medical Group

Wenatchee Valley Medical Group serves North Central Washington as the largest physician group affiliated with Confluence Health. Its history began with the founding of the Wenatchee Valley Clinic (WVC) by three physicians in the 1940s, born from a vision of bringing high-quality, multispecialty, integrated healthcare to the Wenatchee Valley. Over the next 70 years, WVC grew to become Wenatchee Valley Medical Center (WVMC), a large healthcare system that provided care across its four-county region and included 300 physicians in roughly 50 primary care and specialty disciplines. In 2013, WVMC and Central Washington Hospital affiliated to form Confluence Health with the vision to continue to provide high level, comprehensive care locally.

For More Information

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