



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

**MAYOR NEWSOM AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB: "WE'RE
HALFWAY THERE"**

Newsom announces that San Francisco has enrolled 30,000 residents into the city's ground-breaking Healthy San Francisco universal health care program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today at the National Press Club, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom announced that San Francisco has enrolled 30,000 residents into the city's ground-breaking *Healthy San Francisco* universal health care program, which is half of the estimated 60,000 uninsured residents that the program hopes to serve. The announcement comes just 15 months after the initial launch of the program. As of September 22, 2008, 30,061 residents have enrolled in the program.

"Today is an historic milestone for the 46 million Americans who don't have health insurance," said Mayor Newsom. "San Francisco is proving that it can be done. By thinking outside-the-box, we have provided innovative solutions that can help solve our national health crisis rather than passing the buck. *Healthy San Francisco* is a program that can be duplicated across the country if our elected officials are willing to take risks instead of continuing the status quo."

Healthy San Francisco is designed to make health care services accessible and affordable to uninsured San Francisco residents. It is operated by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH). It provides a Medical Home and primary physician to each program participant, allowing a greater focus on preventive care, as well as specialty care, urgent and emergency care, laboratory, inpatient hospitalization, radiology, and pharmaceuticals.

The program is a public/non-profit partnership. The current *Healthy San Francisco* primary care provider network consists of 28 different primary care medical homes (14 public health centers, 14 non-profit health centers) and an independent private physician's group (2 clinics and multiple providers) and an associated hospital.

Hospital services are provided at San Francisco General Hospital (hospital, pharmacy, specialty and diagnostic services) and at four additional San Francisco hospitals. In all four cases, the hospitals that are providing services to HSF, are participating without reimbursement. Mental health and substance abuse services are provided by the Department of Public Health's Community Behavioral Health Services division.

Healthy San Francisco is the culmination of Mayor Newsom's 2005 State of the City pledge to provide universal health care access to the city's uninsured residents.

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