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MAYOR NEWSOM AND CITY OFFICIALS OUTLINE EXPANSION OF *HEALTHY SAN FRANCISCO* PROGRAM

Universal health access program expands to 22 health centers throughout the City

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Today, Mayor Gavin Newsom was joined by Supervisor Tom Ammiano to provide an update on the expansion of *Healthy San Francisco*. *Healthy San Francisco* is an innovative program designed to make healthcare services accessible and affordable to all uninsured San Francisco residents. The program offers uninsured adults access to quality healthcare regardless of the person's employment status, immigration status, or pre-existing medical condition.

"San Francisco continues to lead the nation in health care reform," said Newsom. "The initial success of *Healthy San Francisco* proves that we can fill the critical gap left unfilled by the broken health insurance system. Ultimately we seek universal health access for everyone, regardless of their income."

As of September 17, 2007, 1,850 people were enrolled in *Healthy San Francisco*. By the end of June 2008, the program anticipates serving approximately 46,000 uninsured residents in San Francisco.

First piloted in two sites in Chinatown, *Healthy San Francisco* yesterday expanded from two centers to 22 centers at 27 sites throughout the City. Fourteen are public health centers and 13 are non-profit health centers. An example of how the public and non-profit sectors can work in partnership, *Healthy San Francisco* enables residents to access primary and preventive care.

Public Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz said, "Our emergency rooms are overburdened and in a state of crisis. Through *Healthy San Francisco* we encourage participants to get primary care early in their illness to avoid emergency care later on."

Healthy San Francisco is financed through a combination of employer, individual, the City and County of San Francisco contributions, and other public sources. First year funding for the program includes current City funding and an augmentation of over \$23 million from new federal funds and revenues from participants. *Healthy San Francisco* did not require additional San Francisco General Fund support.

Healthy San Francisco is to be phased in over an 18-24 month period. The program will target the City's most vulnerable residents who have incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (approximately \$10,000 a year for one person and \$21,000 a year for a family of four). More information is available at <http://www.healthysanfrancisco.org>.

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