



# PRESS RELEASE

## *El Dorado County* **PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Gayle Erbe-Hamlin, Director    Stephen G. Drogin, M.D., Health Officer  
931 Spring Street, Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 621-6120/ FAX (530) 626-4713

*Healthy People Living in Healthy Communities Throughout El Dorado County*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 24, 2003

### **CONTACT:**

Steve Cox  
(530) 621-5370

[www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/publichealth](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/publichealth)

## **Grant to Help Cut Eligibility Red Tape**

El Dorado County residents seeking access to publicly funded programs must currently work their way through a dizzying array of agencies, qualification requirements, forms and other red tape. A new \$49,500 grant to the El Dorado County Safety Net Provider Network may help cut through the bureaucracy by harnessing the power of the Internet and computer technology. The one-year project will fund a feasibility study of One-e-App, a Web-based application program, for El Dorado County. The grant is funded by the California HealthCare Foundation.

“The One-e-App is a Web-based system that is designed to screen and enroll applicants in multiple publicly funded health programs through a single application,” explained Chris Weston, Health Program Manager for the El Dorado County Public Health Department. “The system gathers all of the information and sends it to all of the agencies, instead of a family having to run all over the place. This will help promote what we call a ‘one-stop’. It’s designed to smooth the process for both applicants and staff who enroll them.” Weston will coordinate the grant project.

According to Weston, initial demonstrations of One-e-App have been well received nationally by health and human services agencies and organizations. Programs involved in the project could include Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP), and Women, Infants and Children (WIC). “Through this project, families will quickly know which

programs they qualify for,” said Weston. The grant project, which will study the feasibility of the Web application in the county, is considered a first step, since more funding would be needed to implement the program countywide. “At this point, we feel this study is a good place for us to start,” said Weston.

If the feasibility study proves to be worthwhile, Weston eventually envisions setting up access terminals in various community or neighborhood centers, with staffers trained to help families with the One-e-App. “It’s very exciting to see what technology could do to better serve the community,” said Weston.

The funding request for the grant was submitted by the Public Health Department on behalf of the El Dorado County Safety Net Provider Network, a consortium of agencies in the county who have been meeting over the past year. Agencies in the consortium include the El Dorado County Community Health Center, Marshall Medical, Barton Memorial Hospital, Barton Community Clinic, El Dorado County Office of Education, Department of Social Services, Mental Health Department, Department of Community Services, and Public Health Department. The project is one of several the consortium is working on to address access to healthcare for residents, and it builds upon the Action Plan previously approved by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors for Tobacco Settlement monies as recommended by the Health Alliance. In addition, the project compliments funding set aside by the El Dorado County First 5 Commission, and work of First 5 Commissions in Colusa, El Dorado, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties, which are collaboratively tackling universal health coverage for children on a regional level.

For questions about the grant project, contact Chris Weston at (530) 621-7624.

# # #