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Contact: Jessica Tomlinson
Special Advisor, Planning and Communications
Public Health Institute
jtomlinson@phi.org
(510) 285-5533

PHI's Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development Receives Award for Innovative Research on Adolescent Sexuality, Health, and Rights

OAKLAND, CA — The Ford Foundation has awarded a \$730,000 grant to the Public Health Institute's (PHI) Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development (CRAHD). CRAHD will use the funding to produce rigorous policy-relevant research on adolescent sexuality, health, and rights. According to CRAHD director and UC Berkeley clinical professor Norm Constantine, PhD., "this research will focus on three areas -- the sexual and reproductive health and rights of foster youths, parent-adolescent communication about sex, and critical reviews of the content and effectiveness of existing sex education curricula."

CRAHD was one of six organizations selected to receive funding from more than 200 applications received to design and implement innovative research on youth sexuality in the United States.

"CRAHD's work to promote better sexuality education and communication for both youth and parents is cutting-edge and critical," said Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH, PHI's vice president for external affairs and preventive medicine advisor. "We recognize that funders often shy away from highly politicized topics like adolescent sexuality and reproductive health, and we applaud the Ford Foundation's commitment of resources to support the work of CRAHD and the other grantees."

Funding was awarded for proposals that effectively integrated three elements:

- rigorous social science research
- graduate student training to build the next generation of expertise and knowledge
- a commitment to make the findings accessible in ways that deepen public understanding

"These funds will support a uniquely focused strategic training and research program for predoctoral research fellows and policy research interns," said Constantine.

In its awards announcement, the foundation said that "it hoped the research would shed new light on the factors shaping youth sexuality at a time when the culture is rapidly diversifying, social media and other social technology are ascendant, and young people are buffeted by destabilizing economic conditions." It also said that "research into human sexuality is perennially

underfunded, concentrated in biomedical disciplines, frequently lacks reference to the lived experiences of young people, and is often politicized by a deep ideological divide.”

About the Public Health Institute

[PHI](#), an independent nonprofit organization based in Oakland, California, is dedicated to promoting health, well-being and quality of life for people throughout California, across the nation and around the world. PHI's primary methods for achieving these goals include: sharing evidence developed through quality research and evaluation; providing training and technical assistance; and promoting successful prevention strategies to policymakers, communities and individuals.

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