



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER BILL LOCKYER

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## **Treasurer Lockyer Announces Expanded Funding for Small and Rural Health Care Facilities, \$78 Million in Grants to Children's Hospitals** *Long Beach Hospital Receives \$74 Million to Build Pediatric Tower*

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Bill Lockyer announced the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) today moved to expand small and rural health care facilities' access to low-cost financing through CHFFA's HELP II Loan Program, and awarded \$78 million in grants to two children's hospitals.

"CHFFA can play a vital role in helping address California's critical health care needs, and today's action shows it is prepared to meet the challenge," said Lockyer. "The Help II program provides an essential source of funding for small and rural health facilities that often can not be found elsewhere. Many Californians look to these facilities for their health care needs and the new guidelines provide patients with better and more accessible care."

The HELP II Loan program provides three percent, fixed interest loans to California's non-profit small and rural health facilities. HELP II loans may be used to purchase or construct new facilities, remodel or renovate existing facilities, and purchase equipment or furnishings. Since the program's inception in 1988, CHFFA has loaned more than \$42 million to small and rural health facilities.

CHFFA's governing board today raised the maximum loan amount facilities can receive under Help II from \$500,000 to \$750,000. Under a second change, small facilities with gross annual revenue of up to \$30 million can obtain loans, up from \$20 million. And to expand access to financing for rural facilities, the CHFFA board voted to exempt such facilities from the gross revenue limit.

CHFFA took two actions to improve care at children's hospitals. The board approved a \$74 million grant to Miller's Children's Hospital, an operating unit of Long Beach Memorial Medical Center. The funds will be used to construct, equip and furnish a new four-story, inpatient pediatric tower. The new facility will house several state-of-the-art surgical suites, pre- and post-operative rooms, and radiological suites. It also will house a 48-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. And Children's Hospital Central California, in Madera, will receive nearly \$4 million to improve and upgrade facility equipment.

Chaired by Lockyer as State Treasurer, CHFFA provides low-cost financial assistance to public hospitals and private, non-profit health care providers in California. Funding provided through CHFFA can be used for construction, remodeling or renovation, acquisition of land or existing facilities, purchase or lease of equipment, working capital for start-up facilities, and other purposes. CHFFA has financed a wide range of providers and programs throughout the state, from rural, community-based organizations to large multi-hospital systems.

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