

## Health Partnership Grants for Medically-Related Purposes

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. The Health Trust is concerned about the health of individuals, populations and local communities in Santa Clara and Northern San Benito Counties. Our grantmaking encompasses the prevention of disease, the maintenance and promotion of health and wellness, and the fostering of conditions, settings and environments (physical, economic, social, and organizational) in which people can be healthy. Through this broad and holistic lens, The Health Trust makes grants to support medically-related efforts that support the systems and organizations that can positively influence or promote health in communities.

*“Health policy was once thought to be about the provision and funding of medical care. This is now changing. While medical care can prolong survival and improve prognosis after some serious diseases, more important for the health of the population as a whole are the social and economic conditions that make people ill and in need of medical care in the first place. Nevertheless, universal access to medical care is clearly one of the social determinants of health.”*  
*Social Determinants of Health: The Solid Facts (WHO, 2003)*

One of The Health Trust’s three initiatives, Healthy Living, has a strategic focus on obesity prevention. Obesity has become a significant public health challenge and is contributing to rising medical costs. The medical community can treat the diseases and illnesses associated with obesity, but all sectors of the community can and need to contribute to obesity prevention. Obesity prevention requires approaches that ensure a sustainable and nutritious food supply; access to healthy foods; access to and participation in physical activity; and family, educational, work and neighborhood environments that positively reinforce healthy living and healthy aging.