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L.A. Care
HEALTH PLAN®

For All of L.A.



Elevating *The Safety Net*

*An L.A. Care Health Plan Initiative to
Strengthen the Provider Safety Net in L.A. County*

Safety Net Physician Shortage

Problem:

- There is a growing physician shortage throughout the nation – and California is especially vulnerable since it is the most populous state.
- A UC San Francisco study revealed that California is expected to face a shortfall of nearly 9,000 primary care physicians by 2030.
- MLK Community Hospital recently released a report showing there is a shortage of 500 primary care physicians and 700 specialists in the South Los Angeles region.

Solution:

- L.A. Care Health Plan has set aside \$31M of unassigned reserves to create a grant program to strengthen the safety net of providers in Los Angeles County.
- The funds will be used to: 1) assist entities hire and retain safety net doctors to treat L.A. Care members and other vulnerable populations, and 2) award medical school scholarships to create a physician pipeline for the future.
- The new initiative is called Elevating the Safety Net, which ties into L.A. Care's existing brand campaign – Elevating Healthcare in L.A. County.



Guiding Principles

- Increased Health Access
- Equity and Cultural Competence
- Economic Opportunity
- Premier Health Care Workforce
- Resource Coordination



Initial Programs

- **Physician Recruitment & Retention:** Salary subsidies for newly recruited primary care physicians to L.A. County to serve L.A. Care members and other vulnerable populations.
 - Grants will cover 50% of physician's salary up to \$125,000.
- **Medical School Loan Repayment:** Loans for primary care physicians for recruitment and retention in L.A. County to serve L.A. Care members and other vulnerable populations.
 - Funding to be made as a grant to nonprofit administrator.
 - Loan assistance of up to \$5,000 per month for three years.
- **Medical School Scholarships:** Develop a pipeline for future primary care physicians serving L.A. Care members and other vulnerable populations with criteria that prioritize need and an interest in serving underserved communities in L.A. County.
 - Partnership with two universities to offer four scholarships at each: Charles Drew University and UCLA.
 - Scholarship recipients branded as *L.A. Care Scholars*.



Possible Future Elements

- Residency Support
- International Medical Graduate Investment
- Investment in Specialist and Midlevel Providers
- Retention Strategies
- STEM Education Grants

