



## Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission

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### **New Pediatric Clinic Opens Its Doors in Downtown Fresno**

*- EOC's Pediatric Clinic to serve low-income children and young adults in Fresno County-*

**(Fresno, CA)** Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC) proudly announces the opening of its new Pediatric Clinic and invites members of the media to tour the facility. Conveniently situated in downtown Fresno, on "R" Street between Tulare and Fresno streets, EOC's Pediatric Clinic offers a variety of medical services to disadvantaged children living in Fresno County.

"It has been our dream to offer quality health care to low-income children," says Gilda Arreguin, EOC Health Services Director. "We want to become that medical home for children who have never had one. Most importantly, we want children to receive routine and preventative service as early in life as possible; these screenings can help them avoid health complications later down the road."

From routine check-ups to sports and camp physicals to vaccinations, Carmela Sosa, M.D. – a board-certified pediatrician and Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics – and clinic staff are ready to help place children, teens, and young adults up to the age of 21 years on the road to a long, healthy life. Vision and hearing screenings, diabetes and cholesterol testing, management and treatment for acute asthma, and evaluations for ADD and ADHD are among the multitude of services offered. Early screening for autism is also performed on all children with Medi-Cal at the age of 9 months, 18 months, and again between 2 – 2 ½ years of age.

A 2006 survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control estimates that 6.9 children in the U.S. are uninsured; of those children, over three-quarters came from households with an annual income of less than \$35,000. Today, children from poorer families continue to be uninsured, have unmet medical needs, and delay medical care. As a result, children are often more sick when they are finally present to a health care professional, leading to an increased use of the emergency room as a place for primary care, increased hospitalization rates, and even increased loss of school and work days.

"Throughout my career, I have noticed an increase in health disparities between children from low-income, ethnic, or racial groups compared to their counterparts with respect to diseases such as

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obesity and asthma, and even fatalities from drowning," says Dr. Sosa. "The goal of our clinic is to help bridge that gap for children here in Fresno County."

The Clinic, located at 1047 "R" Street in Fresno, is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 559.499.1621. Medi-Cal, Health Net, Blue Cross EHS, and Child Health and Disability Prevention Program (CHDP) are accepted.

To schedule a tour of the facility and interview Dr. Sosa, please contact Yahaira García-Perea at 263.1024.

### **About Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission (EOC)**

For over 44 years, Fresno County EOC – a private, nonprofit agency – has helped low-income Fresno County residents become self-sufficient. EOC offers over 30 comprehensive community-based programs that develop an individual's capabilities and places them on the path toward financial independence.

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