



2-1-1 California Action Update - Volume 38, April, 2006 www.211california.org

2-1-1 Implemented in San Francisco

United Way of the Bay Area implemented 2-1-1 in San Francisco on March 29, 2006. The launch of 2-1-1 San Francisco marks the introduction of this important telephone number in Northern California

As the 100th anniversary of the Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906 approaches, 2-1-1 San Francisco takes its place beside other important three-digit information lines, 9-1-1, 5-1-1 and 4-1-1. UWBA anticipates its 2-1-1 San Francisco call center will significantly alleviate non-emergency calls to 9-1-1 and act as an essential public communications channel in the aftermath of a disaster.

For more information on 2-1-1 in San Francisco, go to www.211sf.org. United Way of the Bay Area HELPLINK, the comprehensive information and referral service provider for Marin, Napa, San Francisco and Solano Counties, submitted an application to the CPUC in February to utilize the 2-1-1 dialing code in **Marin County**. Napa County has a committee working on its 2-1-1 application with HELPLINK as the 2-1-1 provider.

\$100,000 Grant Recognizes 25 Years of I&R Service to Residents of LA County

To help celebrate 25 years of providing access to social services in Los Angeles County, the **Kaiser Foundation Health Plan** and **2-1-1 LA County** announced Kaiser's grant of \$100,000 to support the agency's contributions to the health of the county's residents.

"We made our grant to 2-1-1 LA County because we are confident that it will further our core mission: to improve the health of LA County residents," said **Angela Coron**, Community Benefit Director. "The services provided by 2-1-1 LA County strengthen the health care safety net, link low-income families directly to key public benefits, and help families to obtain jobs with advancement opportunities. They also link families to counseling, health, social and education assessment services to ensure their children receive the support and interventions that ensure their success upon entering school."

Sprint Nextel Cell Access to 2-1-1

Sprint Nextel has assured cell phone access to 2-1-1 for their California customers, joining **T Mobile** and **Cingular** who have each provided access free of charge to the 2-1-1 providers. Communication continues between the existing 2-1-1 services and Verizon Wireless in hopes that they will follow suite.

2-1-1 Day Activities

In honor of February 11, 2006, "2-1-1 Day", the following activities took place in California:

Orange County: **Info Link Orange County** held an open house. www.infolinkoc.org

San Diego County: **2-1-1 San Diego** had its Third Annual 2-1-1 Day Event. The staff of 2-1-1 San Diego was honored in a celebratory lunch held at the Prado in San Diego's Balboa Park. www.211sandiego.org

Ventura County: **Interface Children and Family Services** hosted a **1st Year Anniversary Reception** at the Topa Tower Club. The event was sponsored by United Way. www.icfs.org