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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 21, 2006

Contact: Shirley Melikian Armbruster
 559.278.5292 or 593.1815

Searching for solutions – Insure the Uninsured Project

Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP) and the Central Valley Health Policy Institute at California State University, Fresno will facilitate a Central Valley Regional Workgroup on Thursday, June 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Fresno State's Smittcamp Alumni House.

Approximately 60 key stakeholders throughout Central California will be establishing priorities and offering solutions that are viable to the region's uninsured.

The workgroup will focus on ways in which the San Joaquin Valley can expand access to health care for children and adults. Based on data from the 2003 California Health Interview Survey, approximately 726,000 children and adults who were uninsured for all or part of the year reside in the San Joaquin Valley, out of a total of 6.6 million uninsured nonelderly adults and children statewide.

The meeting's agenda will include:

- A review of Insure the Uninsured Project's findings for the Central Valley region
- A discussion of efforts to cover all children in the San Joaquin Valley counties
- An update on the California state budget and legislation to expand coverage
- A discussion of opportunities and strategies to cover uninsured adults

Speakers for this event will include:

- **Teresa Alvarado**
San Joaquin Health Consortium (Kings County)
- **Dorinda Ohnstead**
California Health Collaborative, Fresno County
- **Joel Diring**
Diring and Associates
- **Deborah Riordan**
Central Valley Health Policy Institute
- **Norma Forbes**
Fresno Healthy Communities Access Partners Project
- **Lucien Wulsin**
Insure the Uninsured
- **Brooke Fox**

Insure the Uninsured Project Services

- **John Zapata**
California Department of Health Services
- **Brooke Frost**
First 5 Tulare County
- **Dr. Rick Zawadski**
RTZ Associates
- **David Hurst**
Health Plan of San Joaquin (San Joaquin County)

For more information, contact Brandie Campbell at 559.278.7940.