Conflict of Interest Policy Statement – The Health Project

In order to uphold a high standard of integrity and fairness, The Health Project maintains a robust Conflict of Interest Policy. This Policy ensures that The Health Project operates consistent with the expectations of a tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation and ensures the impartiality of the Koop Award selection process.

Each director must annually provide a written statement identifying any possible conflicting interests and affirming that the he or she understands and will comply with the Conflict of Interest Policy. Pursuant to the Policy, the existence and resolution of any actual or possible conflict of interest is documented in The Health Project’s records, including the minutes of any meeting at which the conflict was discussed or voted upon. This assures that there will not be any opportunity for a director to improperly influence the deliberation or voting on a matter giving rise to such conflict.

Board members independently review and evaluate each Koop Award application submitted and send their evaluation ratings to The Health Project’s administrator. The administrator then distributes to Board members a report of the scores of all the reviewers for each of the applicants and an average of the scores by reviewer and by applicant. The Board then formally discusses strengths and weaknesses of each application to facilitate the exchange of reviewer insights, prior to voting on the award level, if any, to be granted to each applicant. Pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Policy, Board members are required to declare any possible conflict of interest with respect to any applicant, including without limitation having provided consulting services to, or having an institutional link to the applicant’s organization. Board members with a conflict of interest (i) do not score the applicant, (ii) recuse themselves from discussion regarding the applicant, and (iii) do not vote on the award level granted to such applicant.

Importantly, although The Health Project receives contributions from a wide variety of organizations, including organizations eligible to apply to the Koop Award, the Conflict of Interest Policy provides that: (1) financial contributions may not be discussed in connection with the evaluation of candidates, and (2) any reference to a financial contribution by an applicant will disqualify that program from consideration.