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**ACAP RECOGNIZES ILLUMINATION FOUNDATION WITH 2016
*SUPPORTING THE SAFETY NET AWARD***

WASHINGTON—Today the Association for Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) presented its eleventh annual *Supporting the Safety Net Award* to Illumination Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving access to housing, education, health care and other resources for people in Orange County (Calif.) and neighboring counties who are experiencing homelessness. The award was presented at ACAP’s CEO Summit in Washington, D.C.

ACAP’s “Supporting the Safety Net” award recognizes a community-based organization or individual that has implemented exemplary, innovative programs to meet the health needs of high-risk populations and that can serve as a model of best practices for other communities.

Illumination Foundation aims to provide targeted, interdisciplinary services for the most vulnerable homeless clients to break or prevent the cycle of homelessness. The foundation provides a wide range of services including housing, workforce training, education, healthcare, and recuperative care in an effort to close gaps in services available in Orange County.

Recuperative care is a particularly salient feature of the foundation’s services. Illumination Foundation runs three recuperative care centers in Southern California where it takes in patients experiencing homelessness who are strong enough to leave the hospital after an illness or injury, but are too weak to safely live on the streets. The recuperative care centers also connect members to housing, social services, food, supplies and medical case management.

“A safe, clean place to recover from an illness or injury is something nearly everyone takes for granted. But for people experiencing homelessness, it’s a crucial service.,” said Michael Schrader, CEO, CalOptima, which nominated Illumination Foundation for the award. “We’re proud to work in partnership with them.”

“Safety Net Health Plans have long subscribed to the notion that housing is a form of health care for people who don’t have access to stable housing,” said ACAP CEO Margaret A. Murray. “Collaborations such as this between CalOptima and Illumination Foundation are just one way in which Safety Net Health Plans work to address social determinants of health. We’re delighted to recognize them today.”

Illumination Foundation’s efforts to create a pathway to help safely transition these members back into the community – and case management to improve their health status – has yielded impressive dividends. Illumination Foundation data show that their recuperative care efforts with CalOptima have led to an 89 percent reduction in per-member per-month emergency department costs compared with



members who do not participate; the program is also associated with a reduction in per-member-per-month inpatient utilization costs of 65 percent.

“These data suggest a high level of success with Illumination Foundation’s programs,” added Schrader. “Lowering health care costs is important, but the greater lesson to be drawn here is that Illumination Foundation’s program is helping people to break the cycle of homelessness and move out of a crisis situation. The value of that goes beyond dollars and cents—it’s the essence of why we serve the safety net.”

For more information about Illumination Foundation, visit www.ifhomeless.org.

More about the *Supporting the Safety Net* award is available at www.communityplans.net.

About ACAP

ACAP represents 56 not-for-profit Safety Net Health Plans, which provide health coverage to more than fifteen million people in 26 states. Safety Net Health Plans serve their members through Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Marketplace and other health programs. For more information, visit www.communityplans.net.

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