



Also we are working with Congressman Farr and in partnership with the Produce for Better Health Foundation, (PBH) and their lobbying firm in DC, to develop a joint partnership between PBH and HELP to link their potential \$250,000 Federal appropriations funding for piloting fruit and vegetable vending machines in our region combined with PBH/HELP nutritional education programs within Monterey County's schools.

We have completed work with Senator Abel Maldonado on an amendment to fund the Monterey County Pilot and to link our program's efforts to the Governor's SB 281 for funding to provide more fresh fruits and vegetables in school meals. We also have support in this amendment from Senator Jeff Denham, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Assembly Member Simon Salinas endorses our efforts. Secretary of Agriculture and the Department of Health Services are also in support of our key strategy and aware of our work to date.

Our primary focus is to improve the lives of Monterey County residents. HELP is about "Growing Healthy Communities" and this starts at home. We are proud to be partners with a wide range of local organizations who all are addressing this issue of obesity and better health. Working together we have leveraged our resources and unified our efforts to truly make a difference for our children's health and their lives. End---7/13/05