



Chet P. Hewitt
President and CEO
Sierra Health Foundation

In August 2007, Chet Hewitt became the president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation, a private philanthropy in Sacramento, Calif. In the short time since joining Sierra Health, he has taken the lead in implementing increased grant making, with a focus on reaching underserved populations throughout the foundation's 26-county funding region.

Before coming to Sierra Health Foundation, Chet served as director of the Alameda County Social Services Agency, overseeing the provision of human service programs in the sixth-largest county in California. During his time at the agency, he became known as "The People's Director." With 2,300 employees and a \$600 million budget, the agency provides safety-net services to more than 200,000 Alameda County residents each month. Prior to being named agency director in December 2001, Chet served a year as director of the agency's Department of Children and Family Services, where he successfully led an effort to avert state receivership by bringing the department into compliance with state regulations.

Chet has been involved in policy development, advocacy and human service innovation for more than 20 years. His work has and continues to be focused on creating access to economic and development opportunities for poor and disadvantaged populations. From 1996 to 1998, Chet served as an associate director in the Working Communities division of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he managed the foundation's national policy center and workforce development investment portfolios, and authored its community building strategy. In 1998, he was reassigned to California to manage the Strategic Alliance, the Rockefeller Foundation's partnership with the California Endowment that produced the California Works For Better Health Initiative. The following year he opened the foundation's first domestic field office in San Francisco. In 1995, Chet was awarded an Annie E. Casey Foundation National Children and Family Leaders Fellowship for his work on family and community issues. Prior to receiving his fellowship, he served as a project director with the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco, where he founded a nationally recognized alternative to detention programs for delinquent youth, and authored policy briefs on racial disparities in San Francisco's criminal and juvenile justice systems. One of Chet's proudest accomplishments is the 12 years he spent as a foster parent in San Francisco. Chet also serves on numerous boards and commissions, including the Greater Sacramento Urban League, United Way California Capital Region and Valley Vision. Chet is happily married to his wife, Laura, and is an active partner in raising their two sons.