

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 19, 2007

CONTACT: Patrick Sullivan 916 654-1606

## OSHPD ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF STEVEN M. THOMPSON PHYSICIAN CORPS LOAN REPAYMENT GRANTS

Sacramento – The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) today announced the Health Professions Education Foundation's (HPEF) availability of approximately \$980,000 in loan repayments for the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program.

The loan repayments are available to recently licensed physicians who practice in California. Applicants may be awarded up to \$105,000 to repay educational debt incurred while pursuing their medical education. Loan repayments are paid over a three year period. Award recipients agree to provide healthcare in medically underserved areas for three years.

"The addition of the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment program to the Health Professions Education Foundation coincides with OSHPD's mission of providing equitable healthcare access to all Californians," said OSHPD Director Dr. David Carlisle. "This Program furthers our goal of providing quality healthcare to serve the needs of California's diverse population."

The Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment program transferred to the Health Professions Education Foundation from the Medical Board in 2006. Application forms and program brochures can be downloaded from HPEF's Web site at <a href="https://www.healthprofessions.ca.gov">www.healthprofessions.ca.gov</a>. The application postmark deadline is March 24, 2007.

HPEF, with a mission to improve healthcare access in underserved areas of California, is a nonprofit public benefit corporation which receives administrative support from OSHPD. It was established for the purpose of soliciting funds from the private sector and providing scholarships and loan repayment to demographically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students.

Since 1990, HPEF has awarded scholarships and loan repayments totaling more than \$14 million. These awards have assisted over 2,000 students and graduates to fulfill their dream of pursuing a career in the health professions and caring for underserved populations. For further information about HPEF, please contact the Foundation at (916) 324-6500 or (800) 773-1669.

###