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**Allison Knox**

Director of Public Relations

Office (907) 729-6317 / Cell (907) 250-1480

[aknox@southcentralfoundation.com](mailto:aknox@southcentralfoundation.com)

## **Partnership with Chickaloon Village Traditional Council Key in Securing Community Health Center Funding**

**(Sutton, Alaska)** – Southcentral Foundation (SCF) and Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC) – who have been working in partnership over the past 10 years to secure stable funding for the *C'eyiits' Hwnax* (keye-eetz, haw-nah) Life House Community Health Center in Sutton, Alaska – were awarded a HRSA New Access Point grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. The federal grant provides seed money for the clinic to operate as a Community Health Center – which will provide medical services to both Alaska Native and non-Native people from communities between Palmer and Eureka, including Sutton, Chickaloon and Glacier View.

CVTC owns the current *C'eyiits' Hwnax* Life House Community Health Center, and SCF is responsible for managing the grant and providing a primary care provider, a nurse case manager and support staff. While services will continue for mostly primary care provided by a physician assistant, there will also be some limited assistance with medications, dental, behavioral health, and transportation.

“This is a very exciting advance in rural health care. We will be able to help more people get access to primary care services through a working relationship with our Tribal partner Chickaloon Village Traditional Council. It also opens doors for future funding proposals and expansions,” said SCF President/CEO Dr. Katherine Gottlieb.

SCF has been managing Community Health Centers in McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, and Iliamna with HRSA CHC funding since 2002. This additional funding will allow the Life House Health Center to see everyone who wishes to be seen, whether an individual from Palmer to Glacier View or a visitor passing through. All patients can be seen and charges are adjusted on a sliding fee scale, depending on the household income and ability to pay.

“Bringing health care to Sutton, Chickaloon, and Glacier View has always been important to our Tribe and our partnership with SCF has made this a reality. We are excited about being able to share these vital services with our friends and neighbors and improve the health status of our community,” said Chickaloon Traditional Chief and Chairman Gary Harrison.

Community health centers work to improve access to quality primary health care services that are comprehensive and culturally competent. As community-based and patient-directed organizations, health centers are well positioned to be responsive to the specific health care needs of their community.

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#### **About Southcentral Foundation (SCF)**

Established in 1982, Southcentral Foundation’s (SCF) mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The nonprofit health care affiliate of Cook Inlet Region Inc. (CIRI), SCF has grown in its 30 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs some 1,500 people and manages more than 65 health care programs and services. SCF is one of 15 health care organizations in the nation to ever receive the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

#### **About Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC)**

CVTC is a federally and internationally recognized traditional sovereign government with a nine-member traditional council that is the governing body for Chickaloon Native Village. CVTC’s purpose is to perpetuate their ancestors’ beliefs, customs, traditions, and values and steward the environment to help their citizens thrive. The Tribal government currently operates seven (7) departments to serve the needs of their Tribal citizens and another estimated 2,373 Alaska Native and Native American Peoples living in their service area, which includes the communities of Glacier View, Chickaloon, Sutton, Palmer, and Butte along the Matanuska River.