



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BAY AREA MICROENTERPRISE NONPROFIT PARTNERS WITH UCSF
ON RESEARCH**

*Women's Initiative for Self Employment to conduct research on Microenterprise
Development and Community Health*

San Francisco, CA – Women's Initiative for Self Employment, one of the nation's largest microenterprise training and funding organizations, has been awarded a University Community Partner grant from UCSF. The Bay Area nonprofit will partner with UCSF senior researcher Mary Kreger, Dr.P.H., MPH, on a *Microenterprise Development and Community Health* research project.

The partnership between Women's Initiative and UCSF will serve to design a survey instrument for extensive research to measure the impact of microenterprise development services on the health and well being of traditionally underserved communities of low-income women in San Francisco including women of color, immigrants, women with disabilities and welfare recipients.

"We know that poverty has a negative impact on health," said Elizabeth de Renzy, research and public policy analyst at Women's Initiative. "We want to show that microenterprise development, and business ownership, has a positive impact on the health of a community."

About Women's Initiative

For more than 20 years, Women's Initiative has been providing low-income women throughout the Bay Area with the training, funding and ongoing support to start their own business and become economically self sufficient. In English and in Spanish, women conquer their fears of success, complete a business plan, learn technology, access capital, and meet influential and experienced business people who can help them succeed. The women who go through our program significantly increase their income and assets while launching businesses, creating jobs and stimulating the local economy. In 2009 alone, Women's Initiative graduates created 2,244 jobs in the Bay Area. .

About University Community Partnership

The University Community Partnerships Grants Program was launched in 2008 to support collaborative relationships between UCSF and the community, to provide civic engagement, foster community well being and enhance the environment for research, education, patient care and employment.