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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALCASA awarded \$2 million, five-year grant from CDC—National Center for Injury Prevention & Control

Funding will continue CALCASA's national PreventConnect project

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—October 5, 2012—The California Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CALCASA) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$2 million, five-year grant from The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. CALCASA is the sole recipient in the nation of this grant.

"I am pleased that this funding will allow CALCASA to continue its national PreventConnect project," said U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui. "In today's ever-connected world, using social media and technology tools to create and share resources is critical in the fight against sexual assault and domestic violence. This funding represents the federal government's commitment to this fight, and the recognition that we must use all the tools at our disposal to continue to combat these senseless crimes," she said.

The grant, titled the "Electronic Learning (E-Learning) Collaborative Resource Center for SV and IPV Prevention Practitioners," will allow CALCASA to continue its national PreventConnect project. The \$415,000 per-year grant will support CALCASA's online efforts to enhance the capacity of practitioners to develop and evaluate prevention efforts.

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Since 2004, CALCASA's PreventConnect has been the leading online resource for intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual violence (SV) prevention practitioners to share and learn about data, trends, research, practice and policy. Always on the forefront of technology, PreventConnect has thousands of members and offers web conferences, podcasts, blog postings, a Wiki, and a recently released iPhone/iPad app.

In a 2012 PreventConnect survey of 215 participants, most considered PreventConnect to be "very effective" in many of the elements of an E-Learning Collaborative, including: online technology, creating a safe environment for sharing, facilitating dialogue, and encouraging higher-level dialogue.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for CALCASA's national PreventConnect project to expand its online resources for intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention practitioners. Our collaboration with the CDC will allow us to continue to offer a national online community built around sharing and education," said Sandra Henriquez, CALCASA executive director.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC has been a leader in advancing the prevention of sexual violence and intimate partner violence. Since 2001, the CDC has funded the Rape Prevention and Education program to address the prevention of sexual violence. Since 2002, the CDC has funded the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership through Alliances (DELTA) program to address the prevention of intimate partner violence and build the capacity of state coalitions that focus on IPV.

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ABOUT CALCASA:

CALCASA is the only statewide organization in California whose sole purpose is to promote public policy, advocacy, training and technical assistance on the issue of sexual assault. CALCASA convenes statewide and national training conferences and its primary membership is composed of the 84 rape crisis centers and rape prevention programs in CA. Its affiliate membership is comprised of organizations, businesses, and individuals committed to the elimination of sexual violence. For more information, visit www.calcasa.org. PreventConnect Project website: www.preventconnect.org