

Commonweal

(Bollinas, CA)

Collaborative on Health and the Environment

Total Award: \$200,000 over 1 year

To support the Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE), a project of Commonweal, which brings together thousands of professionals, activists, doctors, researchers, patients and others who are deeply involved in the environmental health field. By acting as an umbrella organization, CHE has developed both working and discussion groups for otherwise independent (and isolated) groups working on specific diseases, providing the needed forum to reach across issues, and form new and unconventional alliances. This has moved the discussion away from the typical toxin-by-toxin and disease-by-disease campaigns, and instead focuses on reframing and developing new language for the environmental health movement. Through the Language and Meaning Project (LAMP), CHE and Commonweal have been working very closely with the Rockridge Institute on framing the environmental health discussion locally and nationally. This included co-hosting a conference with NCF focused on developing the language and story-telling skills needed to better express the movement's vision of a world where people are born and live toxic-free. These developments have allowed CHE to grow to over 1700 individual and organizational partners from 47 states and 18 countries.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$75,000 Environment/Contemplative Practice: *Goal I, Objective I, Strategy 2, Objective II, Strategies 1 & 2, Goal II, Objective II*

\$75,000 Health Program: *Objective II, Strategy 2*

\$50,000 Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice: *Objectives I & II*