



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FIRST 5 Mendocino Contribution to CALSTAR  
Will Help Save Young Lives**

***New equipment aids rapid air transport for critically ill infants***

Mendocino county infants in need of air medical transport received a new lifeline this week, thanks to a contribution from FIRST 5 Mendocino. The commission voted at a recent meeting to award California Shock Trauma Air Rescue (CALSTAR) a \$7,000 grant for a Voyager LightWeight Transport Incubator that will provide a stable, in-flight environment for babies.

“Every infant deserves the best possible start in life. We are thrilled to partner with CALSTAR to provide critical support to help hundreds of babies in need of urgent medical attention,” said Anne Molgaard, executive director of FIRST 5 Mendocino.

The state and region continue to see a rise in the number of infants born at low birth weight and with health complications. Local hospitals are ill-equipped to treat babies who are in critical condition and rely on CALSTAR to transport them to a neonatal intensive care unit where they can receive proper medical attention. With the addition of the new Voyager incubator, also called an isolette, CALSTAR anticipates a nearly 40 percent increase in the number of babies whose lives can be saved through rapid air transport.

“Due to a lack of available trauma centers in the coastal region, Mendocino County infants with serious health conditions are more likely to need an air medical transport,” said Mike Nichols, CALSTAR’s director of development and outreach. “The new Voyager is an invaluable addition to our aircraft and comes at a time when resources are scarce.”

As a nonprofit community service, CALSTAR provides air ambulance services to anyone in need, regardless of insurance coverage. Approximately 19,000 Mendocino County residents are covered under CALSTAR’s membership program, which accounts for nearly half of all current members. CALSTAR members do not incur any costs if transported by CALSTAR or any of its nine reciprocal partner programs. For more information, call 1-888-207-LIFE or visit [www.calstar.org](http://www.calstar.org).

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