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ACCESSCAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECIEVES 2014 CAL WELLNESS SABBATICAL PROGRAM AWARD

Nahla Kayali Among Seven Executives Statewide to Receive Grant to Cover Paid Time Off

Anaheim, Calif. (September 9, 2014) – [Nahla Kayali](#), founder and executive director of [Access California Services \(AccessCal\)](#), a nonprofit organization that supports Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees and immigrants in Southern California, received The California Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Program Award. The award recognizes executives' dedication to their communities and grants \$35,000 to cover each executive director's salary and other expenses during a minimum three-month sabbatical.

"When I launched AccessCal 15 years ago with a set of folding chairs and tables, I never imagined that I'd ever receive such an esteemed sabbatical one day," Kayali said. "I am eager to use this precious time off to revitalize myself and refocus my priorities for the organization to better help enrich the lives of those in our local immigrant and refugee community. I am certain that we have built a sturdy leadership team who will unquestionably hold down the fort during my temporary absence."

[The California Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Program Award](#) was created to improve the long-term effectiveness of health-focused nonprofits by providing their executives with the rest they need to continue to direct their organizations' missions. The California Wellness Foundation is a private, independent foundation created in 1992 with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention.

Kayali and six other nonprofit executives were recognized with The California Wellness Foundation Sabbatical Program Award at a luncheon in Los Angeles today.

About Access California Services

[Access California Services \(AccessCal\)](#) is a culturally and linguistically sensitive health and human services nonprofit organization. It provides economic and social services to local Arab- and Muslim-Americans, refugees and immigrants; however, the AccessCal principle is nonsectarian. Anyone who needs support in the community will receive it regardless of race or ethnicity. AccessCal services include: Case management and advocacy in 13 languages, citizenship and immigration services, employment and tax services, emergency financial assistance, educational services, healthcare access services, counseling and support, community service and civic engagement, and refugee services.

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