



Grants Review Committee Agenda
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 1:30 PM Pacific Time
 RAP Foundation, 41-550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84293619987>
 Meeting ID: 842 9361 9987 Call In: (669) 900-6833 US

This meeting is being conducted as a hybrid meeting by web/and or teleconference, and in the RAP Foundation Offices. Members of the public may be able to participate by telephone, using one of the dial-in numbers listed above. Reasonable accommodation: Any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting may request assistance by emailing gmontano@rapfoundation.org. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting start time will enable us to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting.

Committee Members: Craig Borba (Chair), Rosemary Ortega (Vice-Chair), Ann Dew, Aurora Wilson, Maria Blue, Mike Gialdini, Sandra Loureiro, Van Tanner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: Roll call**
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Action Required**

Staff Recommendation: To approve the February 14, 2023, Grants Review Committee Agenda.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

- III. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Persons wishing to speak are requested to be recognized at the appropriate time. General comments regarding non-agenda items will be called for at this time. Specific comments regarding agenda items will be called for during discussion of each item. Please be prepared to limit your Public Comment remarks to three (3) minutes

- IV. **APPROVE GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: (Attach 1) Action Required**

Staff Recommendation: To approve the January 17, 2023, Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

v. REVIEW OF GRANTS TRACKER: ([Attach 2](#))

vi. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST:

Small Grant #1 at 1:40 PM ([Attach 3](#)) Action Required

Organization:	Friends of the Braille Institute
Program:	<i>Low Vision Program</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Braille Institute Coachella Valley provides free Low Vision rehabilitation services including education, prevention, and disease management for those with vision impairment throughout District 4 of Riverside County. Vision loss can harm one's emotional and physical health, including the ability to live independently, leading to more falls, fractures, hospital visits, and higher medical costs. Our Low Vision Team consists of experienced, certified Low Vision Specialists/Occupational Therapists.	
Representative:	Adele Tucker
Reviewer's Scores:	79% Three reviewers scoring:74, 80, 83
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Staff Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
Conditional Approval:				

Small Grant #2 at 2:00 PM ([Attach 4](#)) Action Required

Organization:	Coachella Valley Community Research Initiative, dba HIV+Aging Research Project -Palm Springs
Program:	<i>The Positive Connections 50+ Virtual Village</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
<p>The Positive Connections 50+ Virtual Village is an on-line platform developed to reduce isolation, foster support systems, and connect older people living with HIV (OPLH) to needed behavioral health, medical, and supportive services. The project addresses HARP-PS research findings demonstrating that social isolation and depression are top concerns of OPLH and their service providers. The platform is free of charge to our entire target population consisting of Coachella Valley OPLH age 50 and older.</p> <p>After witnessing the decimation of their communities and support networks, treatment advances have allowed many long-term HIV survivors to live to ages they had not expected to reach. Many are disabled, subsisting on meager monthly disability benefits. They have been uprooted from no longer affordable long-term urban neighborhoods and relocated to less expensive areas like the Valley, where many of our research participants cite a "lack of connectedness.". They lack resilience needed to recreate support networks. In 2021, HARP-PS administered Institutional Review Board-approved surveys evaluating stigma and resiliency in collaboration with USC and UCLA. OPLH reported experiencing ageism (28%); mild-to-moderate depression (70%); moderately severe/severe depression (8%); and little/some (59%) or no social support (13%).</p>	

HARP-PS and UC Riverside (UCR) conducted four local focus groups with 24 participants and four structured interviews. UCR is conducting conjoint analysis to identify product characteristics based on consumer-identified local needs to inform platform development. Stakeholder input facilitates meeting of OPLH needs for a social network of their peers they can safely access online and linkage to services. Prospective participants complete a brief on-line screening application to verify eligibility; create a user profile and screen name; and can create specific interest groups (e.g., hiking, travel, etc.) facilitating connections with like-minded peers. The “members only”, closed platform protects users’ privacy. Moderators ensure that no inappropriate content is posted and facilitate linkage to community services and in-person OPLH-specific social activities to reduce isolation. The real time chat platform has video capabilities to provide video chats options, which is critical for Deaf and hard-of-hearing participants who communicate with American Sign Language (ASL). We are developing social and educational programming. HARP-PS conducts community-based and social media outreach to recruit participants through partnerships with service providers that serve Latinx, African American, LGBTQ and HIV positive community members, including DAP Health; Let’s Kick ASS (AIDS Survivor Syndrome); Amigos; and Brothers of the Desert. Next steps include Spanish-language East Valley and national ASL focus groups and Spanish-language and ASL platforms. Additional platforms are in development in Los Angeles and Florida’s Tampa Bay area.

Representative:	Ken Katz
Reviewer’s Scores:	85% Three reviewers scoring: 80, 87, 87
Prior RAP Funding:	\$20,000 in May 2020

Staff Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000

Motion:	.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
Conditional Approval:				

Small Grant #3 at 2:15 PM (Attach 5) Action Required

Organization:	Palms to Pines Parasports
Program:	<i>Increasing Adapted Sport and other Offerings for People with Disability to be Healthy-Physically, Socially and Emotionally</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
<p>Our mission is focused on creating a more inclusive society so that people with disability can fully participate and lead a fulfilling life. Towards this end we use sport and other activities to level the playing field, teaching life lessons through sport playing. We incorporated in May 2020 due to a lack of consistent adapted sport offerings throughout Riverside County as per our business plan. We focus on the Coachella Valley and through a partnership with Desert Recreation District Adaptive we’ve grown the number of athletes and programs that athletes and their family members can participate in.</p> <p>We’ve been partnering with DRD Adaptive and Friends of the Desert Mountains (FODM0 (hiking program) for a few years. Currently we run our hikes at least once/month with FODM volunteers leading the hikes and also assisting athletes. We partner with DRD Adaptive on Mondays-wheelchair/standing basketball, Tuesdays-Adults and youth archery, Wednesdays-standing wheelchair basketball and boccia and Thursdays-tennis, pickleball and badminton. Saturdays are for hiking and other activities, e.g. March 4-5 we are offering opportunities to spend a day at Pathfinder Ranch, on April 1 we have purchased tickets</p>	

to see the Firebirds. We are also looking to start a golfing and disc golf program. We have also started our school program, Sports for EveryBODY, with CVUSD with a hope of expanding this to other school districts throughout the Coachella Valley. During December we served 59 unique athletes for a total of 368 hours during 22 days, some of which featured multiple sport offerings. We are hosting, along with DRD Adaptive an Inclusive Community Adapted Sport Day on April 22 at Palm Desert Civic Center Park. Many organizations will be participating in this activity. We also organized the third annual World Disability Day Celebration on December 3 at the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens.

Need-We know from census and other data that people with disability tend to have lower incomes, have much higher levels of depression than those without disability, We also know that at some point everybody will have a disability. (I'm happy to provide more detailed statistics if you like.) We've observed that people with disability often are not aware of activities geared towards them. If a person is depressed from a recent accident they are less likely to want to participate which is a barrier to recruiting athletes. Another barrier is transportation.

By offering a variety of adapted sports and other activities, we are leveling the playing field, in order for persons with disability to have as much selection as possible in doing what they want to do in their lives. Choice is key for everyone to leading a fulfilling life.

The RAP grant enables SoCal Adaptive Sports to continue and expand our programs throughout the Coachella Valley. Finding new athletes occurs on a word of mouth, face to face basis. Towards this end will have tables at numerous events.

Representative:	Michael Rosenkrantz
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 67, 80, 83
Prior RAP Funding:	\$2,500 Sponsorship in March 2022 (extension approved for March 2023), \$5,000 Small Grant May 2022, \$10,000 Mental Health Grant in April 2021

Staff Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
Conditional Approval:				

Small Grant #4 at 2:30 PM (Attach 6) Action Required

Organization:	Escuela De La Raza Unida
Program:	<i>Ballet Folklórico Colores De Aztlán</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
<p>Ballet Folklórico Colores De Aztlán (BFCD) is a community program of Escuela De La Raza Unida (ERU) for all ages, primarily focusing on youth. It teaches dances from different regions of Mexico and indigenous Aztec dances. It is dedicated to the research, preservation, education through the arts, music, dances of Mexican regions and of indigenous culture such as the Aztecs. The group will get together at ERU, in a dance studio which has plenty of space for dancers to participate in a group and dance together with up to two instructors at any time. As each different style of dance is introduced, there will be instructional supplement/props added in regards to the origins of each dance. Each region will come alive and flourish with the authentic costumes and the music to enforce the enrichment, individuality and uniqueness of each dance. There will be consistent weekend practices. Weekend practice allows the youth in the group to be focused on their school activities during the week and engaged in BFCD program</p>	

activities during the weekend. Blythe has very few opportunities for the youth to grow and avoid negative activities, since it is isolated from any major cities. BFCDA will divert them from the negativity into positive activities and outcomes to develop their character and broaden their view of the world. BFCDA will provide an opportunity for each youth and create many more opportunities for themselves. BFCDA will enhance each participant's development through encouragement of collaborating amongst their peers to build their self-esteem and feel self-worth to succeed at their personal goals in life.

Representative:	Carmela F Garnica
Reviewer's Scores:	89% Three reviewers scoring: 73, 97, 97
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Staff Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
Conditional Approval:				

Small Grant #5 at 2:45 PM (Attach 7) Action Required

Organization:	PS Test Inc
Program:	Rolocation Project
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
<p>PS Test's mission is to lower the rate of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in Riverside County at no charge without insurance while treating each patient with dignity in a safe, comfortable environment. Despite COVID-19 restrictions and limitations implemented mid-throughout 2020 and 2021, on July 1, 2021, Dr. Ritchie and her dedicated Board of Directors opened the doors of the first free STIs/HIV testing and services linkage clinic in Riverside County. Within one year of opening our doors, PS Test examined more than 1,500 clients who otherwise would have postponed or neglected to receive testing and treatment – thereby exponentially decreasing the rate of exposure throughout Riverside County and potentially nationwide.</p> <p>As PS Test's two-year joint clinic arrangement concludes, it is vital that the clinic relocates to an area close to the current trusted testing & treatment site. Local residents, community organizations, and health agencies regularly refer concerned community members to be tested and/or treated for HIV/STIs to the centrally-located no-fee clinic adjacent to Desert Regional Medical Center and in the heart of Palm Spring's downtown district – known for both the prolific LGBTQ+ community and the second largest homeless population in Riverside County. Although PS Test has remained sustainable through the support of Riverside County, donors, and healthcare agency sponsorships, we are respectfully appealing to local donors and foundations, such as Regional Access Project (RAP) Foundation, to support the relocation of this vital no-fee STI/HIV testing and treatment clinic.</p>	
Representative:	Jennifer Braun
Reviewer's Scores:	91% Three reviewers scoring: 87, 90, 97
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Staff Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000

Motion:				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Conditional Approval:				

VII. Grants Review Committee member/staff comments:

a. RAP is seeking Reader to review grant applications.

b. Next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 13, 2023, at 1:30 PM.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Agenda Posting: Agendas will be posted on the Foundation website at <https://www.rapfoundation.org> a minimum of 72 hours prior to the meeting date. All public record documents for matters on the open session of the Agenda are available for inspection upon request three (3) days prior to the meeting date. If a public record document that relates to a matter on the open session of the Agenda is distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date, the public record document shall be available for inspection at the same time it is distributed at the address listed above. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.