



**Special Grants Review Committee Agenda**  
**Monday, September 15, 2025, at 1:00 PM Pacific Time**  
RAP Foundation, 41-550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260  
42734 Edelweiss, Big Bear Lake, 92315  
40160 Nolina Ct, Palm Desert, CA, 92260

Board members must attend in person. The public may participate in person or by way of Zoom/Teleconference:

**Join Zoom Webinar Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84008014372>

Webinar ID: 840 0801 4372      Call In: (669) 900-6833 US

This meeting will be conducted in-person and is consistent with Governor Newsom's Assembly Bill 2449 preserving AB 361 and adding two more options for hybrid meetings: "Just cause" and "emergency circumstances".

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Craig Borba (Chair), Rosemary Ortega (Vice-Chair), Ann Dew, Aurora Wilson, Maria Meyer, Van Tanner, Sheryl Benoit

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Roll call**

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Action Required**

**Staff Recommendation:** To approve the September 15, 2025, 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 July 14, 2025, Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

**V. GRANTS TRACKER FY2025-2026: (Attach 2) GRANTS CHART (ATTACH 2A)**

**VI. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST:**

**Small Grant #1 at 1:10 PM (Attach 3) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Parenting Education Center</b>
Program:	<b>Raising Highly Capable Kids</b>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
Parenting Education Center (PEC) exists to break the cycle of ineffective parenting by equipping families with the tools to raise emotionally healthy, resilient children. Due to growing demand and the increasing complexity of family needs in our community, PEC urgently requests funding to hire a dedicated programs facilitator. This role is essential to coordinating both RHCK classes and BrightCourse mentoring sessions, ensuring consistency, quality, and expanded reach.	
Representative:	Krisna Angulo
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>85%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 88,88,85
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$5,000
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$10,000**

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

**Small Grant #2 at 1:25 PM (Attach 4) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Refuge Pregnancy Center</b>
Program:	<i>Expanding Nurse Care: Building Capacity for Women's Health</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
Refuge Pregnancy Center serves moms and dads across the Coachella Valley by offering free pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, peer mentoring, parenting support, and essential resources. Our mission is to offer help, hope, and healing to those facing unplanned pregnancies, ensuring they receive compassionate care in a safe and supportive environment. We are requesting funding to train an additional Registered Nurse in limited obstetric ultrasound to meet this growing need. This investment will allow us to increase access to essential reproductive health services for women and their families who are uninsured, underinsured, or otherwise lack options.	
Representative:	Michael Stearns
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 88, 80, 68
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Nonprofit Desert Fast Pitch
NPO Membership:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$5,000 as a first-time grantee.**

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

**Small Grant #3 at 1:40 PM (Attach 5) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Independent Living Partnership</b>
Program:	Coachella Valley Community Outreach Program for Independent Travel
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
ILP offers a transportation program for seniors, persons living with a disability, persons experiencing a	

medical or mental health challenge, and public transportation is not a viable option. TRIP is a special mileage reimbursement program originated in Coachella Valley in 1993 that serves all residents in Riverside County.

The TRIP program is not just a service, it's an investment in people's dignity, independence and well-being. It breaks down barriers, promotes inclusion and ensures that everyone has the opportunity to fully live their life and participate in society. To qualify for the TRIP Program, you must be a resident of Riverside County and do not drive. This program started in Coachella Valley because of the extreme heat and the transportation needs of Senior and others, and public transportation is not an option.

Representative:	Cat Ferguson
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 86,82,70
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$5,000 as a first-time grantee and ensure funding goes exclusively to Coachella Valley and Palo Verde residents.**

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

#### **Small Grant #5 at 2:00 PM (Attach 6) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Coachella Valley Housing Coalition</b>
Program:	<i>Afterschool Program</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
CVHC's after-school programs are offered to over 1,500 children and youth (ages 5-18) residing in our housing developments. Programs include tutoring, homework assistance, access to computer technology and instruction, organized physical play activities, arts, crafts, tennis instruction, and other enrichment opportunities that enhance their academic readiness. Educational, cultural, and recreation programming serves to enrich participant's academic and personal growth. This service is offered free to residents and relies on grants to remain operable.	
Representative:	Melissa Evans
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>78%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 82,78,74
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant: FY22-23 \$10,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$10,000**

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

**Small Grant #6 at 2:15 PM (Attach 7) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>IYCCV Iyengar Yoga Center Coachella Valley</b>
Program:	<i>Nurturing and Supporting Our Community Through Iyengar Yoga</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
Iyengar Yoga is a system of Hatha yoga developed by B.K.S. Iyengar, emphasizing precision, alignment, and mindful sequencing of postures. This method cultivates strength, flexibility, balance, and mental focus through sustained holds and the use of props such as blocks, straps, chairs, and blankets to make yoga accessible to practitioners of all ages and abilities. Iyengar yoga is especially beneficial for older adults and individuals with physical limitations, offering a therapeutic approach that supports holistic well-being. IYCCV prioritizes serving marginalized and underserved communities, offering general classes for all levels of practice; adaptive classes for older adults and youth; and medical classes designed for residents recovering from cancer treatment, open-heart surgery, hip, and knee replacement, or an illness. Classes are offered year-round in both English and Spanish. The introduction of an online streaming component for the general classes has further expanded accessibility, enabling students to join classes from the comfort and safety of their homes. The Yoga Center is located in Palm Desert at 73875 CA-111.	
Representative:	Alex Aguilar
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>77%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 70,80,82
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$5,000 as a first-time grantee.**

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

**Small Grant #7 at 2:30 PM (Attach 8) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Riverside County Foundation on Aging, Inc.</b>
Program:	Foundation on Aging Older Adult Nutrition Support Program
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
The Foundation on Aging Board of Directors has undertaken a purposeful and significant revision of its Grocery Market Gift Card/Nutrition Support Program. This revised program introduces a comprehensive, three-part effort to provide food security and meaningful nutrition support for older adults in need: The proposed program includes: A partnership with FIND Food Bank, Collaboration with Riverside County Foundation on Aging, and the continuation of Grocery Market Gift Card Program.	
Representative:	Jody Hall Esser
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>74%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,76, 66
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$5,000 as a first-time grantee.**

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

**Small Grant #7 at 2:50 PM (Attach 9) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Oswit Land trust</b>
Program:	Improving mental health among low-income and uninsured residents
Requested Amount:	<b>\$5,000</b>
We are requesting RAP Foundation funds to expand our community education program this season to Desert Hot Springs residents in cooperation with the city's Recreation and Community Services Department. The goal of Desert Hot Springs: Sustainable and Wild is to produce a season-long (November to April) series of educational talks, walks, volunteer opportunities, and events to promote sustainability and environmental stewardship for the city's residents. In the past two years, the program has produced over 60 free educational events and programs, attended by over 3,500 participants.	
Representative:	David Paisley
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>72%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80, 89, 92
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$5,000.**

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

**Small Grant #8 at 3:10 PM (Attach 10) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Palm Springs Community Concert Association</b>
Program:	Palm Springs Community Concert Association 2025-2026 Concert Season
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
For nearly 70 years, PS Concerts has brought internationally recognized musicians to perform for audiences of all ages at accessible prices. In addition to presenting four public concerts each season, PS Concerts aims to foster a new generation of music enthusiasts. Each season, in collaboration with the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD), PC Concerts provides free concerts featuring the same artists who perform at public concerts to local K-12 students. Approximately 1500 students attend these concerts each year. A \$10,000 gift from RAP Foundation will be used to help underwrite the two Children's Concert performances of the 2025-2026 series.	
Representative:	Christopher Seidel
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>71%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 64, 76, 74
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	Yes – RAP Funded

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$2,000 to support the youth.**

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

**Sponsorship #1 at 3:25 PM (Attach 11) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Codex Creation Committee</b>
Program:	Run with Los Muertos
Requested Amount:	<b>\$5,000</b>
Run with Los Muertos (RWLM) continues a centuries-old tradition by uniting dozens of community groups, teams, artists, musicians, runners, and thousands of attendees throughout the US, Mexico, and Canada for an event celebrating health, wellness, art, music, and culture. Public education programming of workshops and workouts leads up to a block party in Old Town Coachella that includes a procession, art walk, car show, 5k run, vendor village, and 3 stages of live entertainment.	
Representative:	Tizoc DeAztlan
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Sponsorship \$5,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$5,000**

Motion:				

The Grants Manager is recommending raising the threshold criteria from 70% to 75% for Small Grants to promote consistency and encourage applicants to submit stronger, more competitive proposals

**Staff Recommendation: To approve raising the threshold criteria from 70% to 75% for Small Grants Applications.**

Motion:				

**VII. Discussion Items:**

a. Board Retreat - Grants Items:

- Improve processes
- Effective/Efficient Committee/Board meetings
- Utilize RBA for better decision making
- Sponsorships Review criteria

- b. The Grants Manager is recommending raising the threshold criteria from 70% to 75% for Small Grants to promote consistency and encourage applicants to submit stronger, more competitive proposals

**Staff Recommendation: To approve raising the threshold criteria from 70% to 75% for Small Grants Applications.**

Motion:				

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**VIII. GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:**

**a. Denial Notice:**

- i. Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter: Small Grant \$10,000  
The application scored below the threshold criteria.

**b. Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, October 20, 2025, at 1:00 PM**

- c. The Right Thing Award Ceremony – October 15, 2025  
Small Grantee  
Location: Palm Springs Police Department, 200 S Civic Dr, Palm Springs, CA 92262  
Time: 4:30 pm

- IX. **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.