



Grants Review Committee Meeting

Monday, December 8, 2025, at 1:00 PM Pacific Time

RAP Foundation, 41-550 Eclectic St., 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), 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 December 8, 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 October 14, 2025, Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

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

VI. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST:

Sponsorship #1 at 1:10 PM (Attach 3) Action Required

Organization:	California CareForce
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Program:	<i>Coachella Valley 2026 Free Healthcare Clinic</i>
Location:	<i>Empire Polo Grounds 81800 51 Ave., Indio, CA February 27th – March 1st, 2026 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM</i>
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
California CareForce will hold a FREE healthcare clinic serving low-income individuals, families, seniors and veterans in Riverside County. This project seeks to address critical gaps in healthcare access for low-income families especially in the Coachella Valley — a population disproportionately impacted by financial barriers, health disparities, and inadequate service availability. Sponsorship support will provide program funding for March 6 - 8, 2026. The California CareForce clinic will provide free medical, dental, and vision care to underserved residents.	
Representative:	Carol Fisher
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	No

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

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

Sponsorship #2 at 1:15 PM (Attach 4) Action Required

Organization:	First Community Baptist Church
Program	<i>MLK 2026</i>
Location:	<i>66672 First Street, Desert Hot Springs, CA 1/17/25 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm</i>
Requested Amount:	\$2,000
The First Community Baptist Church is requesting support to the RAP Foundation to teach young people social skills and how to express themselves. In addition, to teach teamwork and sportsmanship and team play. This will consist of a basketball tournament, track and field event, essay contest, and an open forum discussion.	
Representative:	Pastor James Baylark
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$2,000

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

Sponsorship #3 at 1:30 PM (Attach 5) Action Required

Organization:	Fenixia Foundation
Program:	<i>The Gala, Special Star Come Out Tonight 2026" for Teen & Adults with Disabilities</i>
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Location:	Palm Valley Country Club

	01/31/2026
Following the success of January 2024 event, “The Gala Special Star Come Out Tonight” returns on January 31, 2026, exclusively for older teens (16+) and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As the first event of its kind in the Coachella Valley in 2024 is being held again due to high demand. This is a free community event, open to the public, and with no tickets sold for any profit. This is not a fundraising event, but an event designed to promote friendship, inclusion, and mental well-being for all. It’s part of Fenixia Foundation’s 2026 program to help adults in the community connect and participate like their neurotypical peers.	
Representative:	Lisa Valeiro
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000;
NPO Membership:	No

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

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

Sponsorship #4 at 1:45 PM (Attach 6) Action Required

Organization:	Parkinson’s Resource Organization
Program:	<i>Parkinson’s Today: An Educational Symposium</i>
Location:	UCR – Palm Desert 02/07/25
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
PRO seeks sponsorship support from the RAP Foundation for PRO’s signature public education event “Parkinson’s Today: An Educational Symposium” to be held on February 7th, 2026, in partnership with the Michael J Fox Foundation. Free to the public, PRO’s annual symposium provides expert-led education on Parkinson’s treatment, caregiving, and research for people living with Parkinson's, their caregivers, and the Coachella Valley community. PRO’s education symposium is more than an event; it is a vital access point to information and community for people facing a lonely and difficult disease	
Representative:	Laura Nachison
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes

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

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

Sponsorship #5 at 2:00 PM (Attach 7) Action Required

Organization:	Lift to Rise
Program:	<i>3rd Annual Community Investments Awards</i>
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Location:	Palm Springs Air Museum 03/07/25

The Community Investment Awards are an annual event to recognize extraordinary individuals and organizations working to improve equity and thriving community in the Coachella Valley and beyond through their significant investment of time, energy, and resources. The awards in nine different categories show that meaningful investment can come in many forms, with award recipients coming from the areas of public service, activism, philanthropy, politics, and community leadership.	
Representative:	Heather Vaikona
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$25,000 FY23-24 Small Grant: \$50,000; FY22-23 Special Grant: \$100,000 FY20-21 Special Grant: \$100,000
NPO Membership:	Yes

Staff Recommendation: To clarify if the request meets the criteria. If recommended for approval, consider requesting additional tickets.

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

Small Grant #1 at 2:15 PM (Attach 8) Action Required

Organization:	Vision to Learn
Program:	No cost Vision Screenings, Exams, and Glasses for Students in Blythe CA
Requested Amount:	\$ 40,000
Vision To Learn provides free eye exams and glasses to students attending schools in low-income communities. VTL's goal is to provide students in underfunded communities with the eye care they need to succeed in school and life by eliminating barriers to access and providing all students we see with the highest level of care. Vision To Learn's work in Blythe will be further facilitated by the generosity and commitment of the Rotary Club. Rotarians will provide on-the-ground support, conducting vision screenings for all students at Palo Verde High School and Twin Palms Continuation Schools.	
Representative:	Damian Carroll
Reviewer's Scores:	85% Three reviewers scoring: 92, 82, 80
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$100,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$60,000;
NPO Membership:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$40,000

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

Small Grant #2 at 2:30 PM (Attach 9) Action Required

Organization:	Vision y Compromiso
Program:	Expanding Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services for Children and Families in Coachella Valley
Requested Amount:	\$ 10,000
Vision y Compromiso (VyC) has been delivering promotora-led mental health and emotional wellness programs in Riverside County for over 10 years including outreach, Prevention and Early Intervention and culturally-rooted programs. Our team of promotoras are respected partners and valuable community experts who educate, empower, and advocate for change navigating residents to local resources, reducing	

barriers to health, and strengthening the safety net to improve health for more residents in the Coachella Valley.	
Representative:	Debbie Arthur
Reviewer's Scores:	79% Three reviewers scoring: 86,84,66
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Mental Health Grant \$75,000; FY21-22 \$49,255
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

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

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

Small Grant #3 at 2:45 PM (Attach 10) Action Required

Organization:	The LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert
Program:	LGBTQ+ Affirming Mental and Behavioral Health Care
Requested Amount:	\$ 10,000
The LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert (The Center) is the only organization in the Coachella Valley dedicated to serving the full LGBTQ+ community. The Center's Scott Hines Behavioral Health Clinic provides free and low-cost behavioral health services in the form of individual, couples, and group therapy. Last year it served more than 1,900 community members through over 5,800 clinical visits. Additionally, The Center hosts 10-15 recurring support groups, focused on a wide array of issue areas community members need support with including bereavement, caregiver support, a religious trauma group, and a DBT Skills group, to name a few.	
Representative:	Dan Griffin
Reviewer's Scores:	86% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 82, 92
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

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

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

Small Grant #4 at 3:05 PM (Attach 11) Action Required

Organization:	Palm Springs Cultural Center
Program:	The Original Certified Farmers' Markets of the Coachella Valley Expansion
Requested Amount:	\$ 10,000
The Palm Springs Cultural Center (PSCC) has operated the Original Certified Farmers' Markets of the Coachella Valley for more than a decade, providing access to fresh, locally grown produce and connecting the community with small family farmers and food producers. To address this unmet need, PSCC will launch a Certified Farmers' Market in Desert Hot Springs in Winter 2025, expanding the reach of its successful model to an underserved region. The new market will feature fresh, seasonal, locally grown produce sold directly by California farmers, along with nutrition education and outreach. It will also include the Market Match Program, offering up to \$20 in weekly matching funds for CalFresh (SNAP/EBT)	

and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program participants—making healthy food more affordable while supporting small farmers.	
Representative:	Fei Wade
Reviewer's Scores:	83% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 84, 82
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

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

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

Small Grant #5 at 3:20 PM (Attach 12) Action Required

Organization:	Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City
Program:	<i>Roots of Resilience – Cultivating Strength, Connection, and Emotional Well-Being</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
The Roots of Resilience program empowers youth to build emotional strength, social connection, and mental well-being through SELFY (Social Emotional Learning for Youth) — a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum fostering self-awareness, empathy, and coping skills. SELFY aligns with CASEL's five core competencies and provides structured, age-appropriate learning experiences that help young people navigate the challenges of adolescence with confidence and resilience.	
Representative:	Kara Robinson
Reviewer's Scores:	80% Three reviewers scoring: 90, 84, 66
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 22-23 Juvenal Intervention \$34,700
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

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

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

Small Grant #6 at 3:35 PM (Attach 13) Action Required

Organization:	Safe Family Justice Centers
Program:	<i>Camp Hope – Riverside County 2026</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Camp HOPE – Riverside County is a trauma-informed summer camp experience designed to serve youth impacted by abuse, neglect, and family violence. Our goal is to foster resilience, increase hope, and reduce the long-term effects of trauma in children and teens ages 7–17. In 2026, we will serve approximately 40 youth from across Riverside County, including the 4th District, at a week-long overnight camp. Camp is followed by year-round engagement through mentoring and pre/post-camp events.	
Representative:	Marshall Hamilton
Reviewer's Scores:	83% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 84, 80
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

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

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

Small Grant #7 at 3:50 PM (Attach 14) Action Required

Organization:	Inland Congregations United for Change
Program:	The Sacred Bridge: From Faith to Action
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
The Sacred Bridge: From Faith to Action is a food security and empowerment initiative led by Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC). The program activates ICUC's network of member congregations to serve the most vulnerable populations across urban, semi-urban, and rural communities in the Coachella Valley.	
Representative:	J Lopez Rodriguez
Reviewer's Scores:	80% Three reviewers scoring: 90,80,70
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	N/A

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$10,000 upon clarification of the total budget program

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

Small Grant #8 at 4:05 PM (Attach 15) Action Required

Organization:	The Unforgettables Foundation
Program:	Burial Assistance Program
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Many low-income families in eastern Riverside and Coachella Valleys lack resources to cover sudden funeral or burial costs when a child dies. This gap causes severe emotional distress and financial hardship, compounding grief with debt, delays in burial, or inability to provide closure. In communities already burdened by poverty and health inequities, this unmet need is deeply felt but rarely addressed. RAP funding will help us close a critical gap in the social safety net, reduce the long-term mental health impact of childhood loss, and build a stronger, more compassionate community across the Fourth District.	
Representative:	Lori OConnor
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 84,76, 74
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Small Grant: \$1,500
NPO Membership:	No

Staff Recommendation: To approve a lower amount due to low rating and limited funding

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

VII. GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

- a. **Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 1:00 PM**
- b. **Discuss Sponsorship Criteria Guidelines**

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.