



**Special Grants Review Committee Agenda**  
**Monday, June 16, 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), 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 May 19, 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 May 19, 2025, Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.*

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

**V. GRANTS TRACKER FY2024-2025: (Attach 2)**

*Our initial Grants budget for FY24-25 was \$1,366,000. In March, I requested an additional \$150,000 from the Board due to insufficient funds for small grants, and the Board of Directors approved the request. If all current funding requests were approved in full today, the total expenditures to date would amount to \$1,408,620.*

**VI. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST:**

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

Organization:	Barbara Sinatra Children's Center
Program:	Coalition to End Human Trafficking Coachella Valley Riverside County

Requested Amount:	<b>Juvenile Intervention Grant: Second disbursement: \$46,300</b>
The Barbara Sinatra Children's Center, in collaboration with the Coalition to End Human Trafficking Coachella Valley Riverside County, aims to raise awareness about human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and sextortion in the community. The current program goals include conducting awareness campaigns with youth and young adults in the Coachella Valley, Blythe, and Palo Verde communities through various outreach efforts.	
Representative:	Denise Rodriguez Bowman
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$47,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$26,700; <b>Juvenile Intervention Grant: FY23-24: \$46,300; FY24-25: \$46,300</b>
NPO Membership:	Active - Grant funded
Renewal Date:	11/21/25

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the second disbursement of \$46,300.**

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

**Palo Verde Mental Health Grant #1 at 1:20 PM (Attach 4) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Innecare</b>
Program:	<i>Advanced Behavioral Health Assessments - Blythe</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$20,000</b> <b>FY26-27 PV Mental Health Grant \$20,000</b>
According to Blythe Region Mental Health Community Survey Findings, 54.2% of Blythe's residents are in need of mental healthcare, however cannot access it. Accurate diagnosis is the foundation for effective intervention, reducing unnecessary hospital visits, medication adjustments, and prolonged suffering. Advanced Psychological and Neurocognitive Assessments provide a clear solution by ensuring that individuals receive the most appropriate care tailored to their unique needs. Advanced Psychological and Neurocognitive Assessments are structured evaluations conducted by only licensed clinical psychologists/neuropsychologists with specialty training. These assessments use scientifically validated tools to help clinicians diagnose mental health conditions, clarify complex cases, and guide treatment planning. Unlike brief screenings used in primary care, comprehensive assessments help differentiate conditions that may have overlapping symptoms, such as ADHD, PTSD, Autism, and learning disabilities.	
Representative:	Sara Sanders
Scores:	<b>86%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,86,91
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$30,000; FY23-24 Mental Health Grant: \$70,000; FY24-25 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To approve \$20,000 for FY25-26 and \$20,000 for FY26-27.**

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

**Palo Verde Mental Health Grant #2 at 1:35 PM (Attach 5) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Focus First Counseling</b>
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Program:	<i>Focused on Wellness</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$50,000</b> <b>FY26-27 PV Mental Health Grant \$50,000</b>
The program Focus First is requesting funding for addresses many of the issues surrounding the mental health needs of our community, the issues found in the study conducted by the RAP Foundation, and the shortage of mental health providers and services in our local area of Blythe and the surrounding Palo Verde Valley. We intend to offer our program to the general public within Blythe and the surrounding Palo Verde Valley. Our program will assist in improving the quality of mental health services and the delivery system by providing access to care through our program offerings in a variety of innovative systems. We also intend to provide direct patient care through counseling and therapeutic services.	
Representative:	Amy Daniel
Scores:	<b>71%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 89,80,43
Prior RAP Funding:	<i>Juvenile Intervention Grant:</i> FY23-24: \$42,000; FY24-25: \$42,000
NPO Membership:	Active

**Staff Recommendation: To approve \$42,000 for FY25-26 in two installments. The second disbursement of \$21,000 will be issued upon submission of a mid-term report and successful execution of the program. Upon compliance and being able to demonstrate effectiveness of the program will determine funding for FY26-27.**

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

**Palo Verde Mental Health Grant #3 at 1:50 PM (Attach 6) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Riverside County Latino Commission</b>
Program:	<i>Palo Verde Valley Mental Health</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$100,000</b> <b>FY26-27 PV Mental Health Grant \$100,000</b>
Our organization has identified a significant gap in mental health services within the Blythe community. Two years ago, we began providing mental health support in Blythe and quickly recognized the critical need for expanded services. We are seeking RAP funding to address this gap and extend services to this underserved population. In partnership with the Palo Verde Unified School District, we aim to enhance accessibility to mental health services in the region. The School District has proven to be a valuable partner and trusted link to the community, allowing us to leverage their expertise in understanding local needs. Together, we will engage the community through targeted outreach efforts, educate residents about available mental health resources, and facilitate access to care. Our clinician, specifically designated for this program together with the School District will work on identifying individuals and families in need of services.	
Representative:	Leonel Contreras
Scores:	<b>77%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,77,74
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$75,000
NPO Membership:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve \$100,000 for FY25-26 and \$100,000 for FY26-27.**

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

**Palo Verde Mental Health Grant #4 at 2:05 PM (Attach 7) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Escuela de la Raza</b>
Program:	<i>Bienestar YO</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$30,000</b> <b>FY26-27 PV Mental Health Grant \$30,000</b>
<p>Bienestar Yo will be a program that Blythe's Community will come to address either their mind, body, their spirit, or all of them. The services will be through Ballet Folklórico Colores de Aztlan for all ages at different times during the week and weekends, as well as a Zumba class. Through dance the community will be able to learn about stress management techniques and mental health support. This will include building self-esteem and confidence, handling difficult conversations, self-care, assertiveness, etc. Bienestar Yo will help emphasize preventive measures for care. The emphasis will be on adopting a healthy lifestyle. This will also empower individuals to take an active role in their health and well-being, rather than simply treating illnesses. Bienestar Yo will address the need to use observation to have a deeper connection through camaraderie to alleviate the challenges of equity and inclusiveness. Dance will reduce their stress and anxiety.</p>	
Representative:	Rigoberto V Garnica
Scores:	<b>70%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 66,63,80
Prior RAP Funding:	<b>FY22-23 Small Grant: \$10,000</b>
NPO Membership:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve \$25,000 for FY25-26 upon clarifying the budget and \$25,000 for FY26-27.**

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

**Palo Verde Mental Health Grant #5 at 2:20 PM (Attach 8) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Peace from Chaos</b>
Program:	<i>Restoring Wellness Through Community-Driven Whole Person Care</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>FY25-26 PV Mental Health Grant \$80,000</b> <b>FY26-27 PV Mental Health Grant \$80,000</b>
<p>Palo Verde Valley is federally designated as a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) with a score of 19—indicating a severe lack of behavioral and primary health providers. According to the 2023 HARC Blythe Community Health Survey, residents face high rates of trauma, depression, substance use, and chronic disease—especially among low-income Latinx and BIPOC communities. Peace From Chaos 91 (PFC) is a community trusted, grassroots nonprofit based solely in Blythe, California, serving the extremely rural and underserved Palo Verde Valley. As community members first, we deliver 24/7 bilingual mental health advocacy, peer support, and crisis response to over 10,500 residents.</p>	
Representative:	Angela Colangeli
Scores:	<b>75%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 83,63,80
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship Grant: 1,793.79; FY23-24 Sponsorship Grant: 5,000; FY24-25 Sponsorship Grant: 5,000
NPO Membership:	N/A
NPO Membership:	N/A

Renewal Date:	N/A
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**Staff Recommendation: To approve \$88,000 for FY25-26 and \$88,000 for FY26-27.**

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

**Small Grant #1 at 2:40PM (Attach 9) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Boys &amp; Girls Club of Palm Springs</b>
Program:	Summer Brain Gain and W.A.V.E. Program
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
<p>Summer Brain Gain is a summer learning loss prevention program developed for Boys &amp; Girls Clubs to integrate into their traditional summer schedule. It comprises one-week modules with fun, themed activities for elementary, middle, and high school students aligned with common core anchor standards. Integrated with the Boys &amp; Girls Club of Palm Springs summer schedule, the WAVE Program focuses on four key areas: Water Safety, Aquatic Skills, Vitality, and Enjoyment. WAVE provides a safe and enjoyable environment for children (Grades 1 to middle school) during the desert's hottest season. Children learn water safety, develop swimming techniques, engage in physical fitness, and enjoy pool activities. Sessions include 5 minutes of changing time, 5 minutes of warm-up, 40 minutes of water time, and 10 minutes of changing time, followed by a healthy snack. The program is held in the indoor Pathfinder Pool Pavilion on the Boys &amp; Girls Club campus.</p>	
Representative:	Margaret Keung
Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 74,76,86
Prior RAP Funding:	FY20-21 Mental Health Grant: 43,200; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$35,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

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

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

**Small Grant #2 at 2:55 PM (Attach 10) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>American Red Cross</b>
Program:	<i>Home Fire Relief and Recovery w/ Financial Assistance</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
<p>The goal of the Home Fire Campaign is to help people prevent, prepare for and respond to home fires. Outreach work provides families and communities with the tools and resources to prevent and prepare for home fires. The goal is to help stabilize families in crisis, prevent temporary homelessness and financial insolvency, reduce family stress and begin the recovery process, leading to long-term recovery. We focus our outreach on populations that are more vulnerable to home fires. These populations include the elderly, low-income individuals, and certain racial groups. We provide lifesaving fire prevention and preparedness information and tools before a fire, and relief and recovery services following a fire.</p>	

Representative:	Avery Bell
Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,70,60
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	N/A

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

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

**Small Grant #3 at 3:10 PM (Attach 11) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>OMG Youth Sports</b>
Program:	<i>RISE Coachella: Resilience, Inclusion, Strength &amp; Empowerment Collective</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
RISE Coachella: Resilience, Inclusion, Strength & Empowerment Collective is an inclusive, trauma-informed wellness program for youth ages 8–17 in eastern Riverside County who are neurodivergent, have intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD), experience emotional or behavioral challenges, or have been impacted by adversity such as poverty or trauma. Each 8-week cohort meets weekly and includes structured, engaging activities such as adaptive fitness, guided group interaction, creative expression, mindfulness, and life skills development. Sessions are led by trained mentors and educators, many of whom bring lived experience in special education, trauma recovery, and youth empowerment. Youth participate in emotional check-ins, sensory-integrated play, collaborative challenges, and personalized goal-setting. The program fosters a nurturing space where participants build trust, strengthen social bonds, and develop tools for resilience and self-regulation.	
Representative:	Jonathan Owens
Scores:	<b>73%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 84,52,84
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve up to \$5,000 of the request upon clarification of the services. This is a new program in Coachella Valley. We are interested in seeing how they are able to successfully expand to the region.**

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

**Small Grant #4 at 3:25 PM (Attach 12) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Green Room Theatre Company</b>
Program:	<i>Green Room Theatre Ballet Folklorico Outreach</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
Funding from RAP Foundation would help GRTCCV produce and tour four weekends of performances for a bilingual Shakespeare Festival throughout Coachella Valley in spring 2026. The plays featured will be bilingual “Como Te Gusta/As You Like It” and “American Moor” about Othello. Rights have already been secured and purchased, and up to 22 performances will take place across March 13 - 15, March 20 - 22,	

March 27 - 29, and April 3 - 4, 2026. Funds would help underwrite actors, designers, and technical crew, as well as costumes and makeup; set design and scene painting; and lighting, projections, and sound. Positions for crew, actors and student interns will offer career pathways across these technical, artistic, and logistical elements of production.	
Representative:	Karen Lin
Scores:	<b>74%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 72,74,76
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Small Grant: \$9,700; FY23-24 Desert Fast Pitch: \$1,000 Juvenile Intervention Grant: FY23-24: \$25,000; FY24-25: \$25,000
NPO Membership:	Active - Bronze
Renewal Date:	11/25/25

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

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

**Small Grant #5 at 3:40 PM (Attach 13) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Pegasus</b>
Program:	<i>Pegasus Therapeutic Riding Center</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
Pegasus Therapeutic Riding is a place where children and adults of all ages, with all types of disabilities can come for equine assisted therapy. We practice Range of Motion Exercises (ROM). The walking motion of the horses' body, against human legs, massages all the muscles used in the human walk, and is an inspiring and exciting experience for those whose life is spent in a wheelchair or with disabilities. Each rider is eased into a program of physical exercise geared to their needs. Immobility causes good muscles to atrophy which can lead to further problems. At Pegasus, we try to strengthen the muscles and joints with these exercises along with the effort required in mounting, dismounting and riding a horse.	
Representative:	David Perez
Reviewer's scores:	<b>75%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 72,74,78
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	N/A
Renewal Date:	N/A

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

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

**Small Grant #6 at 3:55 PM (Attach 14) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Step up on Second street</b>
Program:	<i>Step Up's California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports In Lieu of Services (ECM/CS)</i>



	<i>programs in eastern Riverside County, the Coachella Valley, and Palo Verde Valley</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>
Step Up's California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports In Lieu of Services (ECM/CS) programs in eastern Riverside County, the Coachella Valley, and Palo Verde Valley provide vital health and housing navigation services to individuals experiencing homelessness. These programs address the urgent needs of vulnerable populations within these communities. In addition to linking clients with permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing services, Step Up offers a comprehensive array of services designed to help members heal, become self-sufficient, foster belonging, and maintain stable housing. Services include psychiatric and physical healthcare, case management, life skills education, crisis intervention, and connections to community resources like medical and dental care, mental health and substance use counseling, childcare, and workforce development services. As the only local service provider in the Coachella Valley contracted for both ECM and CS programs, Step Up has become the agency of choice for local health plans making referrals.	
Representative:	Lynne Elwan
Scores:	<b>77%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 86,80,64
Prior RAP Funding:	<b>N/A</b>
NPO Membership:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve request for up to \$10,000 upon clarification of how funding will benefit the 4<sup>th</sup> District residents.**

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

**Sponsorship #1 at 4:10 PM (Attach 15) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Variety Children's Charities</b>
Program:	<i>Variety's Annual Fall Carnival</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$5,000</b>
Variety Children's Charity of the Desert will host a free community resource fair—"Fall Carnival"—designed to bring together underserved families and vital nonprofit service providers from across the Coachella Valley. This inclusive, family-friendly event creates a welcoming space where children of all abilities can enjoy a day of fun while parents and caregivers access critical support and information.	
Representative:	Heidi Maldoon
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant: FY21-22: \$5,000, FY22-23; Sponsorship: \$8,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$12,500; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	Platinum
Renewal Date:	4/17/26

**Staff Recommendation: To approve \$2,500 and allow applicant the opportunity to approach other funders. The cost of the event appears to be lower than stated on the application; this can be clarified during the interview.**

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

**Sponsorship #2 at 4:25 PM (Attach 16) Action Required**

Organization:	ARISE org
Program:	Ability Avengers Events
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The Ability Avengers project addresses the unmet need for disability awareness and inclusive practices within the educational systems of eastern Riverside County, the Coachella Valley, and the Palo Verde Valley. Many students with disabilities continue to face systemic barriers in schools, ranging from lack of understanding and stigma to inadequate support and inaccessible environments. This project is designed to foster a culture of inclusion by equipping students, educators, school staff, and community members with the knowledge, tools, and practices needed to create more inclusive educational spaces. It includes fun events and awareness sessions for families and the community.	
Representative:	Peter Wasif
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	N/A
Renewal Date:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To deny the request due to limited time for the event scheduled, June 29<sup>th</sup>.**

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

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

- a. **Denial Notice:** RAP Foundation requires a minimum score of 70% for a request to proceed to the next stage. All applicants scored below this threshold. The Grants Manager will recommend NPOC services or NPOC membership.
  - i. **Riverside County Foundation on Aging: Small Grant \$10,000**
  - ii. **RB House of Love: Small Grant \$10,000**
  - iii. **Me Youth: Small Grant \$10,000**
  - iv. **Tolerance Education Center: Small Grant \$10,000**
  - v. **Arise Organization: Small Grant \$10,000**
  - vi. **Make-A-Wish Foundation of Orange County and the Inland Empire, Inc.: Small Grant \$10,000**
  - vii. **Chabad Of Rancho Mirage: Small Grant \$10,000**
- b. **The Grants manager is in the process of updating the FY2025–2026 Grant Application**

**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.