



**Health/Mental Health
Request for Proposal
FY 2025-2027**

Available January 22, 2026

**Regional Access Project Foundation
41550 Eclectic Street
Palm Desert, CA 92260
(760) 674-9992
www.rapfoundation.org**

Contents

History and Background	3
Grant Description	3
Proposed Timeline	5
Eligibility to Apply	6
Application Guidelines	6
Health/Mental Health Strategy Map	9
Reporting Guidelines	10

History and Background

Regional Access Project Foundation

About Us:

The Regional Access Project (RAP) Foundation was incorporated in 1992 as a 501 (c)(3) public benefit corporation to address unmet needs in health, mental health, and juvenile intervention for residents of eastern Riverside County through grants and technical assistance to not-for-profit service providers. Funding of the RAP Foundation is primarily through unique cooperative agreements between the RAP Foundation and the County of Riverside; and between the County of Riverside and the City of Palm Desert Redevelopment Agency.

Our Mission:

To provide funding, oversight, technical assistance, and guidance to nonprofit, community-based organizations or other collaborative groups which serve the populations of eastern Riverside County in the areas of health, mental health, and juvenile intervention.

Our Vision:

To enhance the quality of life for all residents of eastern Riverside County by investing in nonprofits and empowering them to effectively serve unmet needs identified by the RAP Board of Directors.

NPO Centric:

NPO Centric is a program of the RAP Foundation. It is a community resource center focused on strengthening and increasing the capacity of nonprofits in Riverside County. At NPO Centric, we help nonprofits build stronger, more sustainable organizations by providing them with information, resources, and access to professional expertise in planning, human resources, fundraising and development, marketing and branding, technology, and much more.

Grant Description

The RAP Foundation's focus for this grant is to fund programs/projects that advocate improving the psychological, emotional, physical, and social well-being of residents in the Coachella Valley, the Health/Mental Health Grant is for programs intended to:

- Improve quality of mental health services to remote areas through innovative systems that address policy, access, and delivery channels.
- Improve awareness of mental and emotional health resource services for residents in Coachella Valley through systems that address access, policy, and delivery channels.
- Support culturally competent services and the reduction of language stigma (providing services to people in their native language [excludes English]) and cultural barriers to service access for clients.

RAP Foundation has a total of \$1,000,000 in cash grants available over two years, with \$500,000 allocated for each year for the Health/Mental Health Grant. Funding requests can be made and used for any programmatic cost, such as staff time, supplies, general operations, etc.

Funded programs should create a lasting impact on the residents served. Organizations that request Health/Mental Health funds will be required to produce a report on the corresponding performance measures and must serve the identified target population as illustrated on the ***Strategy Map (pg. 9)***.

The grant period for awarded programs/projects is one year beginning on June 1, 2026. Organizations are invited to submit a proposal for their program/project. This is a competitive grant and not all qualifying applications will be funded. The amount of each Health/Mental Health Grant award will be dependent on the strength of the proposal and the capacity to serve.

The RAP Foundation reserves the right to conduct a site visit to all funded agencies throughout the funding cycle.

The RAP Foundation strives for accountability and transparency in its funding decisions and relies on accurate data collection regarding populations served, measuring of progress and efficacy of funded services.

The RAP Foundation seeks to address unmet needs for low-income, underserved, and diverse communities and deliver crucial services to those most in need to benefit residents in Coachella Valley, regardless of their age, race, religion, political philosophy, financial resources, or gender identity.

Should you have any questions about the Health/Mental Health Grant process, please feel free to contact Grants Manager, Melissa Robles at mrobles@RAPFoundation.org

Proposed Timeline

(Deadlines are subject to change if needed)

Date & Time:	Event:
Thursday, January 22, 2026	Release of Health/Mental Health Request for Proposal (RFP)
Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 10 AM- 11 AM	Mandatory Bidders Meeting Via Zoom RSVP to Join HERE
Thursday, February 19, 2026	Letter of Intent (LOI) is Due (Only one LOI per organization)
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	Staff Invites Eligible Organizations to Apply
Tuesday, April 2, 2026, at 11:59 PM	Application is Due
Thursday, April 23, 2026	Readers Complete Their Reviews of Applications
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	Applicants Are Invited to Attend the Grants Committee Meeting on <u>May 12, 2026</u> , or the Special Grants Review Committee Meeting on <u>May 18, 2026</u>
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 TBD	Grants Review Committee Interviews Potential Grantees (Interview time is approximate. Please allow extra time for delays)
Monday, May 18, 2026 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Grants Review Committee Interviews Potential Grantees (Interview time is approximate. Please allow extra time for delays)
Wednesday, May 27, 2026	RAP Foundation Board of Directors Considers Grant Proposals
Thursday, May 28, 2026	Award Notification Sent to Applicants
Monday, June 1, 2026	Funding Period for Grant Awards Anticipated Start Date
Tuesday, November 17, 2026, from 11 AM- 12 PM	Grantee meeting for Health/Mental Health Midterm Reporting Via Zoom RSVP to join HERE
Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM	Midterm Report is Due (Please review reporting guidelines for more details)
Thursday, May 13, 2027, from 11 AM- 12 PM	Grantee meeting for Health/Mental Health Final Reporting Via Zoom RSVP to join HERE
Monday, May 31, 2027	End of Grant Period
Tuesday, June 15, 2027, at 11:59 PM	Final Report is Due 15 Days After End of Grant Period (Please review reporting guidelines for more details)
Tuesday, June 1, 2027	Start of Year Two Grant Period

June 2-17, 2027	Year Two Grant Awards are Disbursed
Monday, November 15, 2027, at 11:59 PM	Year Two Midterm Report is Due (Please review reporting guidelines for more details)
Thursday, June 1, 2028	End of Year Two Grant Period
Thursday, June 15, 2028, at 11:59 PM	Year Two Final Report is Due no later than 15 Days After End of Grant Period (Please review reporting guidelines for more details)

Eligibility to Apply

To be eligible to apply for the Health/Mental Health Grant, applicants must:

- Be a tax-exempt nonprofit, community-based organization, or collaborative group
- Attend the mandatory Bidders Meeting on **Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 10 AM - 11 AM**
- Support one or more of the strategies identified in the *Strategy Map* (pg. 9)
- Serve the identified target population: PRIMARILY low-income residents in Coachella Valley with an emphasis on BIPOC family units with children

Application Guidelines

The Health/Mental Health Application can be found on the RAP Foundation website in *Grant Opportunities* under the *Grants* tab: <https://rapfoundation.org/grants/grant-opportunities/>.

The application is an online process and requires all applicants to have an active account with the RAP Foundation's grant tool, *Foundant*.

- If your organization does not have an account, you can create one by clicking on the link below and selecting the "Create New Account" button:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=rapfoundation>
- If have an existing account, but do not remember your password, please select the "Forgot your Password" button on the logon page:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rapfoundation>
- If you believe you may have an account, but are not sure, please contact Melissa Robles, Grants Manager at mrobles@rapfoundation.org

Stage One: Letter of Intent

Organizations are required to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) online using *Foundant*, RAP's grant portal. Organizations are limited to submitting one proposal. The LOI form can be found on the RAP Foundation website.

LOIs are due on **Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 11:59 PM**. LOIs that are submitted late will not be considered for funding. RAP Foundation staff will review all LOIs for eligibility and completeness. On **Tuesday, March 10, 2026**, eligible applicants will be invited to submit a full application.

Stage Two: Full Application

Applicants that are invited to submit a full application will have until **Tuesday, April 2, 2026, at 11:59 PM** to submit their Health/Mental Health Application via the Grantee Dashboard that can be accessed at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rapfoundation> Applications can be reviewed and edited anytime beforehand to ensure completeness.

Applicants can save their work by selecting the **“Save Application”** button each time at the bottom of the application. Upon completing all the required fields, submit the application by clicking on the **“Submit Application”** button at the bottom of the page. Applications will be reviewed by the Grants Manager for eligibility and completeness and by the RAP Foundation's community of readers for scoring. Applicants will be notified of their score no later than **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**. Applicants that score 75% and above will be invited to present their grant request to the Grants Review Committee on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, or **Monday, May 18, 2026**.

Stage Three: Grants Review Committee

All applicants invited to attend the Grants Review Committee meeting will be contacted via email with additional information and be provided with a time to attend the meeting. During the meeting, applicants will be expected to give up to a three-minute presentation/overview of their funding request and answer questions from the committee. Applicants may attend the meeting in person at the RAP offices or via Zoom.

Stage Four: Board Approval

All grant requests that are reviewed at the Grants Review Committee meeting will be considered at the RAP Foundation Board meeting on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026**. Award notifications will be sent out from **May 28 – 30, 2026**.

Stage Five: Grant Agreement

If approved for funding, grantees will be required to sign a Grant Agreement online via the grant portal. Access your dashboard at: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rapfoundation>

Any changes to the grant proposal must be reflected in the agreement.

Funds cannot be disbursed until the Grant Agreement is signed and approved. Once processed, it may take up to 10 business days for payment to be received.

Health/Mental Health Strategy Map

Organizations applying for the RAP Foundation's Health/Mental Health Grant are required to support one or more of the strategies and serve the identified target population defined in the *Strategy Map* below.

Goal: All residents in Coachella Valley are mentally and emotionally healthy.
Headline Indicator: Increase the number of residents in Coachella Valley accessing mental health services.
Target Population: PRIMARILY low-income residents in Coachella Valley with an emphasis on BIPOC family units with children.
Result: Residents in Coachella Valley have equitable access to mental and emotional health resources.
Strategy #1: Improve quality of mental health services to remote areas through innovative systems that address policy, access, and delivery channels.
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of clients served in remote areasNumber of clients served by non-traditional service delivery options (non-business hours, remote service delivery, mobile clinic delivery, new location for service, collaboration with other orgs, providing transportation for clients)Number of clients who reported positive outcomes related to improved access to services
Strategy #2: Improve awareness of mental and emotional health resource services for residents in Coachella Valley and through systems that address access, policy, and delivery channels.
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of community engagement/awareness activitiesNumber of clients reached through awareness effortsNumber of clients who increased their knowledge of mental health resources (data development)Number of clients who were connected to mental health services
Strategy #3: Support culturally competent services and the reduction of language stigma (providing services to people in their native language [excludes English]) and cultural barriers to service access for clients.
Performance Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Number of clients servedNumber of clients provided service in their native language (excludes English)Number of service providers who received cultural competency training

Reporting Guidelines



Cash Grant Reporting:

The RAP Foundation utilizes *Clear Impact*, a tool that follows the Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework to track how much we did, how well we did it, and if anyone is better off as a result of the services and resources provided by RAP grantees by measuring impact to improve performance and hence "*turn the curve*."

Grantees will be expected to self-report client data on the Strategies that align with the program/project. Grantees must submit and complete the following items for both the Midterm and Final Report:

1. Submit a budget: [click here to download the RAP Budget Template](#) (please only utilize the budget that has been provided)
2. Please submit both the Midterm and Final Report using RAP Foundation's grant tool, *Foundant* <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rapfoundation>.
 - a. For the narrative portion, you will be required to answer a few questions with a short paragraph.
 - b. For the quantitative section, you will be entering the numbers for the data you collected on the strategies that align with your program.

Grantees will be provided with a guide for how to collect the requested data from the *Strategy Map*. This document will be uploaded in your Grantee Dashboard as a document for you to download and refer to when needed.

Grantees can attend the two meetings scheduled respectfully a month prior to the midterm and final report deadlines to go over the reporting requirements. The meetings will be held via Zoom on:

- **Tuesday, November 17, 2026, from 11 AM-12 PM** for the Health/Mental Health Midterm Report
RSVP with the link below to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81453487714>

- **Thursday, May 13, 2027, from 11 AM-12 PM** for the Health/Mental Health Final Report
RSVP to with the link below join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/KnDbt05OS4qhVY6y7Q6lFA>

Start Your Application Here

Click here to apply: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Process/Apply?urlkey=rapfoundation>
Click here to logon: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=rapfoundation>

Should you have any questions about the Health/Mental Health Grant process, please feel free to contact Grants Manager, Melissa Robles at Mrobles@rapfoundation.org.

Grant Term Definitions

- **BIPOC:** Black, Indigenous, People of Color.
- **Cultural Competency:** Cultural competence is the integration and transformation of knowledge about individuals and groups of people into specific standards, policies, practices, and attitudes used in appropriate cultural settings to increase the quality of services; thereby producing better outcomes.
 - o Principles of cultural competence include:
 - ♣ Define culture broadly.
 - ♣ Value clients' cultural beliefs.
 - ♣ Recognize complexity in language interpretation.
 - ♣ Facilitate learning between providers and communities.
 - ♣ Involve the community in defining and addressing service needs.
 - ♣ Collaborate with other agencies.
 - ♣ Professionalize staff hiring and training.
 - ♣ Institutionalize cultural competence.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Delivery Channels:** The means by which organizations can reach, engage, and inform people within communities.
- **Project Deliverable:** An outcome that is achieved as a result of a project.
- **Performance Measure:** A measure of how well a program, agency, or service system is working.
- **Reporting:** A plan that demonstrates how you will evaluate the success of a project deliverable.
- **Health/Mental Health Definition:** To advocate improving the psychological, emotional, physical, and social well-being of an individual.
- **Innovative Systems:** To create value in new ways.

- **Language Stigma:** Refers to situations where individuals, either clients or community members, are denied access or receive inadequate services due to the absence of support in their native language.
- **Non-Traditional Service Delivery:** Non-business hours, remote service delivery, mobile clinic delivery, new location for service, collaboration with other organizations, providing transportation for clients.
- **Partners & Collaborators:** Persons or organizations that will work with grant seekers to meet program objectives.
- **Poverty:** “Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty has many faces, changing from place to place and across time, and has been described in many ways. Most often, poverty is a situation people want to escape. So poverty is a call to action — for the poor and the wealthy alike — a call to change the world so that many more may have enough to eat, adequate shelter, access to education and health, protection from violence, and a voice in what happens in their communities.”
 - The World Bank Organization.
 - As the threshold to define "poor" expanded, the World Bank developed indicators to assess the causes of poverty, its non-income dimensions and its contributors. The indicator levels include: education, health, access to social services, vulnerability, social exclusion, and access to social capital.

Source: The World Bank Organization

- **Program:** A creative sustainable, and impactful idea that when in operation will require twelve (12) or more months to implement.
- **Project:** A creative sustainable, and impactful idea that when in operation will be time-limited and require fewer than twelve (12) months to implement.
- **Quantitative Data:** Information-gathering techniques that utilize scientific tools and measurements, such as participant surveys, so that outcomes can be measured or counted.
- **Qualitative Data:** Information-gathering techniques that are subjective in nature and measure outcomes using tools such as, but not necessarily limited to: participant observation, field notes, participant interviews.
- **Safe Space:** A safe space is a designated environment, physical or virtual, where individuals, particularly those from marginalized groups, feel respected and free from discrimination or harm. It allows open expression without fear of judgment and fosters inclusivity and constructive dialogue among diverse participants.
- **Sustainability:** Plans for ensuring continuation of the program (after the RAP Foundation grant award period ends) including strategies such as continuation grants, new fundraising, and revenue generated from the program, etc.

- **Underserved Communities:** In terms of healthcare access, underserved populations include consumers who share one or more of the following characteristics:
 - Receive fewer health care services.
 - Encounter barriers to accessing primary health care services (e.g., economic, cultural, and/or linguistic).
 - Have a lack of familiarity with the health care delivery system.
 - Face a shortage of readily available providers.

Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services