



## Grants Review Committee Agenda

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 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 January 20, 2026, 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 December 8, 2026, Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.*

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

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

### VI. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST:

*Small Grant #1 at 1:10 PM (Attach 3) 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:	<b>85%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 90, 82, 80
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$100,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$60,000;
NPO Membership:	N/A

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

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

***Small Grant #2 at 1:30 PM (Attach 4) Action Required***

Organization:	<b>Hidden Harvest</b>			
Program:	<i>Fresh Produce for our Neighbors in Need</i>			
Requested Amount:	<b>\$ 10,000</b>			
Hidden Harvest's mission is to bridge this divide by purchasing fresh produce directly from local small farmers and distributing it free of charge to low-income families, seniors, farmworkers, and community partners throughout the region. By purchasing rather than solely relying on donated surplus, Hidden Harvest ensures that small family farmers, many of whom operate on thin margins, receive fair compensation for their crops. This model creates a local economic multiplier effect, keeping dollars within the Coachella Valley's agricultural economy while strengthening the financial stability of small-scale producers.				
Representative:	Francisco Linares/ Megan Nelson			
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>83%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 86, 82, 82			
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Small Grant: \$5,000			
NPO Membership:	N/A			

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

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

***Small Grant #3 at 1:45 PM (Attach 5) Action Required***

Organization:	<b>Variety Children's Charities of the Desert</b>			
Program:	Connecting the Coachella Valley to Care			
Requested Amount:	<b>\$10,000</b>			
Variety Children's Charity of the Desert requests \$10,000 from the RAP Foundation to expand awareness and accessibility of our newly expanded programs providing inclusive health, mental health, and enrichment services to children and families throughout the Coachella Valley.				

Representative:	Nicholas Rossi			
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>76%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 78,76,74			
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$2,500; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$8,000; FY21-22 Small Grant: \$5,000, FY 22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$12,500			
NPO Membership:	Expired – October 2025			

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

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

***Sponsorship #1 at 2:00 PM (Attach 6) Action Required***

Organization:	GENUINE ANIMATE ASSIST SUCCEED, DBA., GANAS			
Program:	<i>Ganas de Fiesta</i>			
Requested Amount:	<b>\$5,000</b>			
Location:	March 21 <sup>st</sup> 10:00 am – 2:00 pm “Oasis Elementary School”			
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:	Martha Barragan			
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 22-23 Juvenile Intervention: \$45,000; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-25 Juvenile Intervention: \$60,000; FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$5,000			
NPO Membership:	N/A			

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

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

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

**A. Health/Mental Health RFP**

The Mental Health Initiative Committee met on January 14, 2026, to review the Health/Mental Health Request for Proposal. The Committee recommended to the Executive Committee that the RFP be approved for release by January 22, 2026. ([Attach 7](#))

**1. Denial Notice:**

- i. Desert Recreation District: Small Grant \$10,000  
Application scored below the threshold criteria.

**2. Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, February 18, 2026, at 1:00 PM**

**Grantee Events:**

3. **MLK Basketball Tournament** – January 17, 2026 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Desert Hot Springs Recreation Center  
11750 Cholla Dr. Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
4. **Focus First** – Alice in Wonderland Children’s Theatre  
Saturday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Location: Palo Verde College Performing Arts Center

**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.