



REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION
Board Meeting **APPROVED MINUTES**
December 17, 2025 at 9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER *at 9:04 by Board Chair J. Pye* - By J. Pye Roll Call: **J. Pye, S. Benoit, C. Borba, G. Colangeli, C. Galvez, M. Gonda (joined remotely), B. Gonzalez, R. Gutierrez, B. Kroonen, M. Meyer, R. Ortega, E. Romero, K. Rodgers, T. St. Johns, A. Smith, V. Tanner, A. Wilson, Supervisor Perez and P. Cooper.**

Excused absence: G. Nestande

Also present: L. De Lara, T. Fantini, G. Holliday, A. Lackie, A. Huesca, V. Arroniz, J. Zehad, A. Nieto, M. Rosales, M. Robles, S. Minor, and M. Reyes (Remotely). Angela Colangeli.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

In order to meet Brown Act requirements, items may be added to the agenda only upon decision by a majority of the Board of Directors to add the item because of a need for immediate action.

To add to the agenda after Public Comments: Amendment No.4 to the Professional Agreement for Nutrition and Tobacco Prevention Education Services Between County of Riverside and Regional Access Project Foundation.

Motion by R. Gutierrez and seconded by C. Galvez Yes: 16 No (Supervisor Perez and K. Rodgers were not present at the time of the vote.)

Motion:	To approve the agenda as with the additional agenda item.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
B.Kroonen	R.Gutierrez	18	0	0

III. PUBLIC COMMENT -Any individual wishing to comment on the agenda or an item not on the agenda may do so by emailing mreyes@rapfoundation.org or calling in at the number above. All emailed comments must be received prior to 9:00 AM. Persons wishing to speak on 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. - **None**

Amendment No.4 to the Professional Agreement for Nutrition and Tobacco Prevention Education Services Between County of Riverside and Regional Access Project Foundation.

Staff Recommendation: For the board to authorize the CEO to sign the amendment.

Motion:	To authorize the CEO to sign the amendment.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
B/ Kroonen	C. Borba	17	0	Supervisor Perez

IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required

- A.** Approval of Oct. 22, 2025 and Nov. 20, 2025 Board Meeting Draft Minutes - Receive and file (Attach. #1 and #2)
- B.** CEO Report - Receive and File (Attach. #3)

- C. Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report – Receive and File (Attach. #4)
- D. Grant Report - Receive and File. (Attach. #5)
- E. Facilities Report – Report and File (Attach. #6)
- F. Financial Report for month ending October 31, 2025 – Receive and File (Attach. #7)

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To receive and file the October 22 and November 20, 2025 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Grants, Facilities and Financial Report.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>M. Meyer</i>	<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>K. Rodgers</i>

J. Pye requested a presentation from CV Healthy Living team, Adam Lackie and Ashley Huesca.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To receive and file the CV Healthy Living Report</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>M. Meyer</i>	<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Board Chair Jan Pye Comments: ***Board Chair stated that she did not attend the State of the County event as stated in the CEO report.***

B. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez or his Representative- to provide update on County matters of interest.

Supervisor Perez reported on the recent State of the County event when was attended by approx. 1,000 people.

He acknowledged Pat Cooper for her participation in singing the national anthem. He reported that the annual rotation for the Board of Supervisors changed as of yesterday. Supervisor Spiegel is now the Board Chair.

He stated that he is proud of the county's efforts to address homelessness and increasing affordable housing and the use of ARPA funds to fund infrastructure projects.

C. Adopt the 2026 Calendar for the Board and Committees (Attach. #8)

Executive Committee: To adopt the schedule for 2026.

Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To adopt the schedule for 2026.</i>			
<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>Supervisor Perez</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>

D. Resolution 2025.17 Creation of Strategic Funding Committee (Attach. #9)

Executive Committee: To adopt Resolution 2025.17 .

Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To adopt Resolution 2025.17 .</i>			
<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>Supervisor Perez</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

E. NPO Centric – Monthly Report and activity highlights- Vanessa Arroniz, NPO Centric Community Engagement Manager. (Attach. #10).

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>Approve and file the monthly report.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>

<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>K. Rodgers</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
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F. Contribution of \$10,000 from Rosemary Ortega with a request that it be used to support NPO Centric.

Staff recommendation: That \$5,000 be designated for 2026 Desert Fast Pitch and \$ 5,000 be designated for NPO Centric program.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>Accept the \$10,000 donation and designate \$5,000 towards Desert Fast Pitch and \$5,000 towards NPO Centric program.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

G. GRANTS TRACKER FY 2025-2026: (Attach. #11 and #12)

H. GRANT REQUESTS: SPONSORSHIP GRANTS - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SPONSORSHIP GRANT #1 - #4.
2. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING DENIAL OF REQUEST FOR SPONSORSHIP GRANT #5.

Block motion to accept the Grant Committee's recommendation for Sponsorship Grants #1-#4.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>Accept the Grant Committee's recommendation for Sponsorship Grants #1-#4.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>B. Gonzalez</i>	<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Sponsorship #1	California CareForce
Program:	<i>Coachella Valley 2026 Free Healthcare Clinic</i>
Location:	<i>Empire Polo Grounds 81800 51 Ave., Indio, CA</i> <i>February 27th – March 1st, 2026 at 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. This project seeks to address critical gaps in healthcare access for low-income families especially in the CV — 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.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve the request of \$5,000

Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
Motion:	<i>To approve the request of \$5,000</i>			

Sponsorship #2	First Community Baptist Church
Program	<i>MLK 2026</i>
Location:	<i>66672 First Street, Desert Hot Springs, CA</i> <i>11750 Cholla Drive, Desert Hot Springs, CA on 1/17/26 at 8:00 am – 1:00 pm</i>
Requested Amount:	\$2,000

The First Community Baptist Church is requesting support funds 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.

Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve the request for \$2,000

Motion:	<i>To approve \$2,000.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Sponsorship #3	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 on 01/31/2026
Following the success of January 2024 event, "The Gala Special Star Come Out Tonight" returns on January 31, exclusively for older teens (16+) and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As the first event of its kind in the CV 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's 2026 program to help adults in the community connect and participate like their neurotypical peers.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000;
NPO Membership:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve the request of \$5,000

Motion:	<i>To approve the request of \$5,000</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Sponsorship #4	Parkinson's Resource Organization (PRO)
Program:	<i>Parkinson's Today: An Educational Symposium</i>
Location:	UCR – Palm Desert on 02/07/25
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
PRO seeks sponsorship support for PRO's signature public education event "Parkinson's Today: An Educational Symposium" to be held on February 7th 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 CV 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	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve the request of \$5,000

Motion:	<i>To approve the request of \$5,000</i>
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Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

Sponsorship #5	Lift to Rise
Program:	<i>3rd Annual Community Investments Awards</i>
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Location:	Palm Springs Air Museum on 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 CV 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.	
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

Conflict of Interest for board members: M. Gonda, Bea Gonzalez and Kenny Rodgers.

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No:0) To deny the request because of the nature of the event as it does not align or qualify as a sponsorship.

Motion:	To deny the request because of the nature of the event as it does not align or qualify as a sponsorship.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
P. Cooper	V. Tanner	15	0	Board members: M. Gonda, K. Rodgers and B. Gonzalez left the room during the discussion.

I. SMALL Grants - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SPONSORSHIP GRANT #1 - #7.

Small Grant #1	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.	
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

Grants Committee Recommendation(Yes: 6 No: 0): To approve the request for \$10,000

Motion:	To approve the request for \$10,000			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	17	0	G. Colangeli

Small Grant #2	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.
Reviewer's Scores:	86% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 82, 92
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0) To approve the request of \$10,000

Motion:	To approve the request of \$10,000			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	18	0	0

Small Grant #3	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.
Reviewer's Scores:	83% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 84, 82
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No:0): To approve the request of \$10,000

Motion:	To approve the request of \$10,000			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	17	0	M. Gonda

Small Grant #4	Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City
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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.	
Reviewer's Scores:	80% Three reviewers scoring: 90, 84, 66
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 22-23 Juvenal Intervention \$34,700
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No:0) To approve the request of \$10,000

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve the request of \$10,000</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>R. Gutierrez</i>	<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Small Grant #5	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.	
Reviewer's Scores:	83% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 84, 80
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes:6 No: 0): To approve the request of \$10,000

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve the request of \$10,000</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>R. Gutierrez</i>	<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Small Grant #6	Inland Congregations United for Change
Program:	<i>The Sacred Bridge: From Faith to Action</i>
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.	
Reviewer's Scores:	80% Three reviewers scoring: 90,80,70
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No:0): To approve the request of \$10,000

Motion:	To approve the request of \$10,000			
Motion By:		# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	18	0	0

Small Grant #7	The Unforgettables Foundation
Program:	<i>Burial Assistance Program</i>
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.	
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 84, 76, 74
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Small Grant: \$1,500
NPO Membership:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes:6 No: 0): To approve \$10,000.

Motion:	To approve the request of \$10,000			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	18	0	0

VI. Information Item

- A. Board Attendance for 2025 (Attach. #13))
- B. Grants Committee: Met on Dec. 8. Approved Oct. 14 Minutes (Attach. #14). Next meeting Jan. 20.
- C. Executive Committee: Met on Dec. 8. Approved Sept. 15 (Attach. #15) and Oct. 14 Draft Minutes (Attach.# 16). Next meeting Jan. 20.
- D. Finance/Investment Committee: Met on Dec. 8. Oct. 14 Minutes (Attach. #17) Next meeting Jan. 20.
- E. NPO Centric Committee: Next meeting Jan. 26. .
- F. Audit Committee – Next meeting TBD.
- G. Nominations Committee - TBD

VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

Thank you to our board members for your community service. Happy holidays

G. Colangeli mentioned the Peace From Chaos (PFC) Ribbon Cutting Event and their efforts to provide services in Blythe. Also, reported that PFC received a \$10,000 grant from the City of Blythe to support their program and to provide Christmas gifts to families.

VIII. Closed Session:

Government Code: 54957

Report out: The CEO announced that the Board voted to change the Title and duties of the current Director of Development to the Director of Strategic Development.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting January 28, 2026 at 9 AM. *Adjourned at 10:30.*