



**Grants Review Committee Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 12:00 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/81558013629>

Webinar ID: 840 0801 3629 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, Sheryl Benoit, Vann Tanner, Kathleen Kelly,

**I. CALL TO ORDER: Roll call**

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Action Required**

*Staff Recommendation: To approve the May 13, 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 April 13, 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: Health/Mental Health Grant**

RBA Strategies:

- 1.Improve the quality of mental health services to remote areas through innovative systems.

- 2.Improve awareness of mental and emotional health resource services for residents.
- 3.Support cultural competency of service providers and reduction of language/stigma/cultural barriers.

**Health/Mental Health Grant #1 at 12:10 PM (Attach 3) Action Required**

Organization:	Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Program:	<i>Increasing Current and Future Access to Mental Health Services for Coachella Valley Families</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$50,000</b>
Reviewer’s Scores:	88%
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
Representative:	Kraig Johnson
<p>Jewish Family Service of the Desert (JFS) implemented “Increasing Current and Future Access to Mental Health Services for Coachella Valley Families” to address the community needs by increasing and supplementing current access to mental health counseling services through paid (associate clinician) and unpaid (bachelor’s level and above) supervised clinical interns to offer no-cost services to Coachella Valley residents ages five (5) and above, while accruing the required supervised hours for independent licensure, such as LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Workers) or LMFT (Licensed Marriage &amp; Family Therapist). Additionally, the initiative seeks to increase future access by retaining newly licensed and/or attracting high-quality clinicians to live and work in the Coachella Valley.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health: \$60,000; FY23-24 Mental Health: \$50,000; FY22-23 Mental Health: \$50,000; FY21-22 Mental Health: \$50,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$5,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$5,000; FY22-23; FY22-23 Small Grant: \$5,000;
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	Yes

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$50,000 for FY25-26**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #2 at 12:25 PM (Attach 4) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Shelter from the Storm</b>
Program:	<i>Case Management and Counseling Services Program</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$50,000</b>
Reviewer’s Scores:	<b>83%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 89,83,77
RBA Strategies:	<b>1</b>
Representative:	Angelina Coe
<p>Shelter From The Storm, Inc. (SFTS) is the sole provider of confidential emergency shelter and comprehensive domestic violence services in the Coachella Valley, representing a critical and irreplaceable safety net in the region. The organization primarily serves low- and no-income individuals, including women, men, and children from newborn to 99 years old. A significant portion of clients are Hispanic/Latino, many of whom are monolingual Spanish speakers, requiring linguistically accessible and culturally competent services.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000;

	FY23-24 Mental Health Grant: \$42,000; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$42,000;
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	Yes

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$50,000 for FY25-26**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #3 at 12:40 PM (Attach 5) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>United Cerebral Palsy of the Inland Empire</b>
Program:	<i>UCPIE Family Empowerment Program</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$61,272</b>
Representative:	John S.
RBA Strategies:	<b>3</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>88%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 83,89,91

In the Coachella Valley, access to bilingual, affordable, and disability-informed behavioral health services remains constrained. Caregivers frequently prioritize their child's needs above their own, delaying or forgoing mental health care due to cost, stigma, lack of time, or absence of appropriate providers who understand the unique dynamics of disability within a family system. Without intervention, caregiver burnout can lead to worsening mental health outcomes, family instability, reduced workforce participation, and diminished capacity to support the child's developmental progress. Despite this clear need, there are few programs in our region that intentionally focus on strengthening caregiver resilience as a preventive behavioral health strategy.

The UCPIE Family Empowerment Program directly addresses this unmet need by providing accessible, bilingual, culturally responsive mental health support tailored specifically for parents and caregivers of children with Intellectual and Developmental Delays (I/DD) ensuring that those who provide daily care are themselves supported, stabilized, and empowered.

Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$18,000; FY21-22 Small Grant: \$3,850;
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	Yes

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$30,000 for FY25-26**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #4 at 1:00 PM (Attach 6) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Olive Crest</b>
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Program:	<i>Improving Mental Health Care and Support Services for Youth impacted by the Trauma of Sexual Exploitation</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$60,000</b>
Representative:	Walter Mueller
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>80%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,80,80
RBA Strategies:	<b>1, 2</b>
In response to the growing shortage of specialized programs for sex-trafficked minors, Olive Crest expanded its mission in January 2025. Our PROMiSE (Prevention and Restoration of Minors Involved in Sexual Exploitation) initiative provides critical mental health care and support services for minors aged 12–18 who are being recruited or rescued from sex trafficking in the Coachella Valley.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health Grant: \$70,000; FY23-24 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant:\$50,000; FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000; FY23-25 Juvenile Intervention Grant:\$17,500; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant:\$17,500; FY22-23 Small Grant: \$6,675, FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$5,000
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	No – Expired in April

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$60,000**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #5 at 1:15 PM (Attach 7) Action Required**

Organization:	The Joslyn Center
Program:	<i>Joslyn Wellness Mental Health for Underserved Communities</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$50,000</b>
Representative:	Jack Newby
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>84%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,91,80
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
The Joslyn Wellness Center was established in 2017 to support and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of underserved older adults in the Coachella Valley. Services are offered at no cost, in both English and Spanish, to all residents aged 50 and above.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000 ; FY22-23 Mental Health: \$50,000;
NPO Member:	Yes
Geographic areas served:	Bermuda Dunes, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Rancho Mirage, Thousand Palms.

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$50,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #6 at 1:35 PM (Attach 8) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center</b>
Program:	<i>Camino de Bienestar Familiar: Community Health Workers Supporting Mental Health for Families with Children</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>
Representative:	Alex Fajardo
RBA Strategies:	<b>2,3</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>83%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 83,89,77
The proposed Camino de Bienestar Familiar initiative is a Community Health Worker (CHW)-led initiative that will expand El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center's existing youth mental health programming to serve entire family units, including caregivers and children, across the Coachella Valley.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$4,000;
NPO Member:	Yes
Geographic areas served:	Coachella, DHS, Indio, Mecca, Palm Desert, Thermal, Thousand Palms

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$30,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #7 at 2:00 PM (Attach 9) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation</b>
Program:	<i>Innovative Mobile Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Delivery</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>
Representative:	Michelle Skiljan
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>83%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 89,83,77
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
The CSUSB Palm Desert Campus Nursing Street Medicine Program (NSMP), in partnership with Eisenhower Health's Mobile Care Unit and CV Rx Coachella Valley Pharmacy, will expand via an integrated, mobile behavioral health and substance use treatment model serving unhoused residents and migrant families. The NSMP addresses these gaps by delivering nurse-led, mobile behavioral health services directly into communities.	
NPO Member:	No
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
Geographic areas served:	Coachella, Mecca, North Shore, Thermal, Oasis

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$30,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #8 at 2:20 PM (Attach 10) Action Required**

Organization:	Braille Institute of America, Inc.
Program:	<i>Vision Loss Support Groups</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$25,000</b>
Representative:	Katherine Syer
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>81%</b> Three reviewers scoring:80,86,77
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
Braille Institute's Vision Loss Support Groups serve as the entryway for many adults beginning to navigate vision loss, and are fully integrated with our Low Vision Rehabilitation Services. Braille Institute has long offered a range of counseling services, some informally. Our Support Groups — designed, piloted, and formally launched in 2025 — specifically address the stage when people navigating vision loss are most vulnerable in terms of their mental health.	
NPO Member:	Yes
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$25,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #9 at 2:40 PM (Attach 11) Action Required**

Organization:	The LGBTQ Community Center of the Desert
Program:	<i>LGBTQ+ Affirming Mental and Behavioral Health Care in Spanish</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$25,000</b>
Representative:	Dan Griffin
RBA Strategies:	<b>3</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>81%</b> Three reviewers scoring:80,86,77
The need for accessible mental health services in the Coachella Valley is significant. The Coachella Valley LGBTQ+ community faces disproportionately high rates of mental health distress, suicidal ideation, and social isolation compared to the general population.	
NPO Member:	No
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$25,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #10 at 3:00 PM (Attach 12) Action Required**

Organization:	Boys and Girls Club of Cathedral City
Program:	<i>Men of Character</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$25,000</b>
Representative:	Kara Robinson
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring:80,80,77
RBA Strategies:	<b>2,3</b>
<p>Young people, particularly boys, face disproportionately high risks related to suicide, substance use, school discipline, and involvement in the juvenile justice system. Social norms that discourage emotional expression and help-seeking often leave youth without the tools to manage stress, trauma, and anxiety. Men of Character is a 7 to 9 week (depending on season) mental health and resilience program for youth ages 9 to 18, offered multiple times per year at the Boys and Girls Club of Cathedral City.</p>	
NPO Member:	No
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention: \$34,700; FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000
Geographic areas served:	Cathedral City, DHS, North Palm Springs, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Thousand Palms

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$25,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #11 at 3:20 PM (Attach 13) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation</b>
Program:	<i>Ophelia Program: School-Based Mental &amp; Emotional Wellness Initiative</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>
Representative:	Peter Sturgeon
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>78%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 78,76,84
RBA Strategies:	<b>2,3</b>
<p>The Ophelia Program is a school-based mental and emotional wellness initiative serving 610 primarily low-income girls in grades 8–12 throughout the Coachella Valley. In collaboration with Desert Sands Unified, Palm Springs Unified, and Coachella Valley Unified School Districts, the program integrates trauma-informed wellness support into the school day, removing barriers such as transportation, cost, scheduling, and stigma.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-25 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$30,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant:\$15,000; FY20-21 Mental Health Grant: \$20,000
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$30,000 for FY25-26**

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

**VIII. Health/Mental Health Grant:** Incomplete financial information and not in compliance with the state of California requirements, the staff recommends denying the organizations listed below.

- 1. Inland Congregations United for Change (ICUC)**
- 2. Rancho 3 Agavez de Cielo Azul**

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

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

- I. Do the Right Thing Awards Ceremony: May 20, 2026, at 4:30 PM.**  
Rancho Mirage High School Gymnasium, 31001 Rattler Road, Rancho Mirage, CA
- II. Next scheduled meeting: Monday, May 18, 2026, at 1:00 PM.**

**X. 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.