



**Special Grants Review Committee Agenda**  
**Monday, May 18, 2026 at 12:30 PM Pacific Time**  
 RAP Foundation, 41-550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260  
 42734 Edelweiss, Big Bear, CA 92315

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, 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 18, 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

**VI. GRANTS TRACKER FY2025-2026:** [\(Attach 1\)](#)

**V. 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 12:30 PM* [\(Attach 2\)](#) **Action Required**

Organization:	Innercare
Program:	<i>Reducing Barriers to Behavioral Health Care through a Tiered Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH) Model</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$40,000</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	82% <b>86, 86, 74</b>
RBA Strategies:	<b>1, 3</b>
Representative:	Sara Sanders
<p>This program will implement a Tiered Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH) model embedded within primary care clinics serving the Coachella Valley. This innovative redesign strengthens the quality of mental health services by integrating behavioral health providers directly into the primary care team, thereby creating an approach associated with higher patient engagement, reduced no-show rates, and faster initiation of treatment. The program will expand the delivery of same-day integrated behavioral health encounters within primary care, strengthening timeliness, clinical effectiveness, care coordination, and continuity of mental health services across the system.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health: \$50,000; FY23-24 Mental Health: 70,000; FY22-23 Mental Health: \$30,000; FY21-22 Mental Health: \$50,000;
Geographic areas served:	Coachella & Mecca
NPO Member:	No

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

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #2 at 12:50 PM (Attach 3) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Variety Children's Charities of the Desert Tent 66; Variety - the Children's Charity of the Desert</b>
Program:	<i>Expanding Youth Mental Health Access</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$20,000</b>
Representative:	Heidi Maldoon
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>80%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 89,77,74
<p>Expanding Youth Mental Health Access addresses persistent gaps in mental and emotional health support for children and families across the Coachella Valley, particularly in communities where geographic isolation, language barriers, and limited-service availability prevent timely access to care. In communities across the Coachella Valley, including East Valley areas such as Mecca and remote West Valley communities such as Desert Hot Springs, families often face significant challenges navigating mental health systems, resulting in delayed identification of developmental, social-emotional, and behavioral concerns and limited follow-through on referrals.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$2,500; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant; FY22-23 Sponsorship Grant: \$8,000; FY21-22 Small Grant: \$5,000;

Geographic area served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$20,000 for FY25-26**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #3 at 1:10 PM (Attach 4) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>The Living Desert</b>
Program:	<i>Elder Memory Care Outreach Program</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$25,000</b>
Representative:	Kathy Sacher
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>82%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 89,80,77
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
<p>The Elder Memory Care Outreach Program addresses the growing unmet needs of older adults facing social isolation, limited services, and increased risk of cognitive and emotional decline. Seniors in memory care, assisted living, and low-income housing often experience barriers such as limited mobility, lack of transportation, financial constraints, language differences, and cognitive impairment. These challenges are especially acute in remote and underserved areas of the Coachella Valley, where access to engaging programs that support emotional and mental well-being is limited.</p>	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
Geographic area served:	All Coachella Valley
NPO Member:	No

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$25,000**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #4 at 1:30 PM (Attach 5) Action Required**

Organization:	Vision y Compromiso
Program:	<i>Conectando Caminos (Connecting Pathways)</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>
Representative:	Debbie Arthur
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 86,76,74
RBA Strategies:	<b>2,3</b>
<p>The VyC has prioritized implementation of Conectando Caminos (Connecting Pathways) which expands our successful Cultivating Wellness program. Connecting Pathways is a holistic, strengths-based and comprehensive Mental Health and Emotional Wellness Program that combines our expertise with the promotora model for community transformation with culturally responsive, linguistically appropriate and accessible practices (community-defined evidence-based practices), and safe spaces that promote healing</p>	

and recovery, reduce stigma, and increase access to information and resources to support our most vulnerable communities.	
NPO Member:	No
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$75,000; FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$49,250; FY20-21 Mental Health Grant: \$25,000;
Geographic areas served:	Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, Mecca, North Shore, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, & Thermal.

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

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #5 at 1:45 PM (Attach 6) Action Required**

Organization:	El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
Program:	<i>Caminos de Bienestar Familiar: Community Health Workers Supporting Mental Health for Families with Children</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>
Representative:	Alex Fajardo
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>83%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 83,89,77
RBA Strategies:	<b>2,3</b>
The The proposed Caminos 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.	
NPO Member:	Yes
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$4,000;
Geographic areas served:	Coachella, DHS, Indio, Mecca, Palm Desert, Thermal, Thousand Palms

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$20,000 of the \$30,000 request upon clarification of services for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #6 at 2:10 PM (Attach 7) Action Required**

Organization:	Alzheimers Coachella Valley
Program:	<i>ACV'S Mental Health Equity &amp; Access</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$40,000</b>
Representative:	Linda Barack
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>84%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 86,86,80
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>

Alzheimers Coachella Valley (ACV) Vision: We treat dementia as a family-wide mental health crisis. Provide a lifeline by removing barriers through no-cost, culturally competent services, native-language support, and accessible rural and East Valley resources.	
Programs: ACV delivers a dual-impact model: life-changing socialization and healthcare workforce expansion. All services are, rooted in best practices, and supported by bilingual staff and materials	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; F24-25 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$4,000; FY22-23 Small Grant: \$3,000; FY20-21 Small Grant: \$4,500
NPO Member:	Yes
Geographic area served:	All Coachella Valley

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request of \$40,000 for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #7 at 2:30 PM (Attach 8) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Hidden Harvest</b>
Program:	<i>Seeds of Stability: Food Security as a Foundation for Mental Health</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>
Representative:	Megan Nelson
RBA Strategies:	<b>1</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>80%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 80,80,80
Hidden Harvest's Seeds of Stability: Food Security as a Foundation for Mental Health, aligned with the RAP Foundation's priorities, addresses a critical and often-overlooked gap: the direct link between food insecurity and mental well-being. For families struggling to meet basic nutritional needs, the constant uncertainty around food access creates chronic stress that negatively impacts emotional health, family stability, and overall quality of life. In the ECV, food insecurity is not only a basic needs issue, but it is also a root cause of poor mental health outcomes.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY21-22 Small Grant: \$5,000;
NPO Member:	Yes
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley

**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 2:45 PM (Attach 9) Action Required**

Organization:	Soroptimist House of Hope, Inc.
Program:	<i>Women's Residential Treatment for Substance Use Disorders and Mental Health Care</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$30,000</b>

Representative:	Nicole Yingling
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>79%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 83,80,74
RBA Strategies:	<b>1,2,3</b>
Soroptimist House of Hope (SHoH) operates a Women's Recovery Program grounded in a trauma-informed, gender-responsive model designed specifically for women with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. The program addresses a critical unmet need in the Coachella Valley: accessible, comprehensive residential mental health care for low-income women experiencing complex trauma, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and other behavioral health challenges often intertwined with substance use.	
NPO Member:	No
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health Grant: \$40,000; FY23-24 Mental Health Grant: \$25,000; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$25,000; FY20-21 Mental Health Grant: \$15,000;

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$35,000 of the \$50,000 request for FY25-26.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #9 at 3:00 PM (Attach 10) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Operation SafeHouse</b>
Program:	<i>SafeHouse Mental Health Outreach &amp; Awareness Program</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$25,000</b>
Representative:	Julie Hale
RBA Strategies:	<b>2</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>78%</b> Three reviewers scoring:80,86,77
The SafeHouse Mental Health Awareness and Outreach Program is a youth mental health prevention initiative established in 2010 to promote emotional wellness, reduce stigma, and improve access to mental health resources for underserved BIPOC youth in the Coachella Valley. For more than a decade, the program has delivered no-cost, school- and community-based mental health education and peer support in low-income desert communities.	
NPO Member:	Yes
Geographic areas served:	Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, Mecca, Palm Springs, Thermal, Thousand Palms,
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Performance Grant: \$16,875

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

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #10 at 3:20 PM (Attach 11) Action Required**

Organization:	Coachella Valley Rescue Mission
Program:	<i>CVRM Integrated Behavioral Health Access &amp; Internship Pipeline Initiative</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$50,000</b>

Representative:	Teri Ortiz
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>77%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 86,74,71
RBA Strategies:	<b>1, &amp; 2</b>
Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) respectfully requests funding to implement the Integrated Behavioral Health Access & Internship Pipeline Initiative, aimed at increasing culturally competent mental health access for homeless, underserved, and low-income residents throughout the Coachella Valley. The program will embed a licensed clinician into CVRM's existing residential and outreach programs to supervise a cohort of mental health interns from local universities, expand culturally and linguistically responsive behavioral health services, reduce stigma, and improve awareness of mental and emotional health resources among high-need populations.	
NPO Member:	Yes
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
Geographic areas served:	All Coachella Valley

**Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$40,000 and encourage the applicant to take advantage of their NPO membership to strengthen their grant proposal.**

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #11 at 3:40 PM (Attach 12) Action Required**

Organization:	<b>Danza Azteca Citlaltonac</b>
Program:	<i>Tejiendo Confianza: Cultural Healing &amp; Mental Health Access Program</i>
Requested Amount:	<b>\$25,000</b>
Representative:	<b>Gabriela Armenta</b>
Reviewer's Scores:	<b>76%</b> Three reviewers scoring: 71,74,83
RBA Strategies:	<b>2,3</b>
Tejiendo Confianza (Weaving Trust) is a culturally rooted mental and emotional wellness initiative led by Danza Azteca Citlaltonac Indigenous Culture Center serving the Eastern Coachella Valley. This program integrates Indigenous healing practices, advocacy education, and systems navigation to improve awareness of mental health resources while reducing cultural, language, and stigma-related barriers that prevent Latino and Indigenous residents from accessing care. Residents in the Eastern Coachella Valley—particularly immigrant, mixed-status, farmworker, and Indigenous families—face significant challenges in obtaining culturally responsive mental and emotional health services. Barriers include limited bilingual and culturally responsive providers, transportation gaps, fear connected to immigration enforcement, financial hardship, and deep cultural stigma surrounding mental health support	
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:	Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, La Quinta, Mecca, North Shore, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Sky Valley & Thermal.
NPO Member:	No

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

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

**Health/Mental Health Grant #12 at 4:00 PM (Attach 13) 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:	1
Representative:	Angelina Coe
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.	
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 area 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):

**VIII. Health/Mental Health Grant: Due to limited funding and rating below the threshold, the staff recommends denying the organization below.**

**1. SAC Health**

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

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

- I. Next scheduled meeting: Monday, July 13, 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.