



Grants Review Committee Agenda

Monday, September 14, 2026, at 1:00 PM Pacific Time

RAP Foundation, 41-550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260

42734 Edelweiss, Big Bear Lake, 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, Van Tanner, Sheryl Benoit, Kathleen Kelly.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Roll call

II. GOOD CAUSE DETERMINATION FOR BOARD MEMBER- Maria Meyer

Staff Recommendation: Member Meyer has provided reason to Board Chair of reason to participate remotely which qualifies as "Good Cause".

Motion:	<i>To approve recommendation.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Action Required

Staff Recommendation: To approve the September 14, 2026, Grants Review Committee Agenda.

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

IV. 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

V. APPROVE GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: **(Attach 1)** Action Required

Staff Recommendation: To approve the July 13, 2026, Grants Review Committee Meeting Minutes.

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

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VI. GRANTS TRACKER FY2026-2027: [\(Attach 2\)](#)

VII. GRANT FUNDING REQUEST:

Small Grant #1 at 1:10 PM [\(Attach 3\)](#) Action Required

Organization:	Habitat for Humanity of the Coachella Valley
Program:	<i>Improving Resiliency and Quality of Life of Low-Income Coachella Valley Residents</i>
Requested Amount:	\$ 10,000
HFHCV's program provides a multi-faceted approach to improving resiliency among low-income Coachella Valley residents. This includes assessing home environments for issues that impact quality of life and well-being and addressing issues; providing regular wellness checks to identify needs for referrals to resources, including behavioral health services; and providing information about available community-based behavioral health resources.	
Representative:	Ken Katz
Reviewer's Scores:	85% Three reviewers' scores: 82, 82, 90
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for \$5,000 as a first-time grantee.

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

Small Grant #2 at 1:30 PM [\(Attach 4\)](#) Action Required

Organization:	Integrated Learning Institute
Program:	Coachella Valley Community Outreach Program for Independent Travel
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Roots Before Results is a six-session parent workshop series designed to equip caregivers with practical tools for supporting children with big emotions, learning stress, meltdowns, shutdowns, sensory overwhelm, and daily regulation challenges. The program helps parents move beyond reacting to behavior and begin understanding what may be happening beneath it. Each session blends trauma-informed instruction, nervous-system-centered strategies, guided discussion, experiential practice, and reflection. Rather than offering passive lectures, the program is structured so participants build usable tools during each session and leave with strategies they can apply immediately at home.	
Representative:	Cinthya Moses
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 69,74,88
Prior RAP Funding:	2025 Desert Fast Pitch: \$1,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$5,000; FY21-22 Small Grant: \$5,000
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Staff Recommendation: To deny the request due to the limited length of the program and the low number of participants.

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

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

Organization:	Read with me Volunteers
Program:	<i>Read With Me Programs Expansion</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Literacy is essential for young children because it builds the foundation for academic success, language development, confidence, and long-term opportunity. Since Read With Me Volunteers' (RWM) inception in 2004, the program has helped thousands of Coachella Valley children from low-income, limited-English-speaking backgrounds learn to read, comprehend, write, and speak English. RWM focuses on English learners (93% Hispanic children who live in homes where English is not often spoken) in Coachella Valley elementary schools with the highest poverty rates.	
Representative:	Louise Cummings
Reviewer's Scores:	78% Three reviewers scoring: 82,78,74
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant: FY22-23 \$10,000
NPO Membership:	Yes – Active

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for a lesser amount of \$5,000.

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

Small Grant #4 at 2:00 PM (Attach 6) Action Required

Organization:	John F Kennedy Memorial Foundation
Program:	<i>JFK Family Safety & Stabilization Project</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
The JFK Family Safety & Stabilization Project will help families with young children meet immediate health and safety needs that are often identified during home visits but cannot always be covered through existing public funding. Through JFK's Parents as Teachers/CalWORKs Home Visitation and Education & Outreach programs, Parent Educators work directly with families in their homes, providing parenting education, child development guidance, health and safety information, developmental screenings, and connections to community resources. The program is built around each family's needs and goals, with a strong focus on healthy child development, home safety, family well-being, and the prevention of child abuse and neglect.	
Representative:	Kathy Sacher
Reviewer's Scores:	79% Three reviewers scoring: 84,80,74
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-27 Mental Health Grant: \$30,000; FY23-25 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$30,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$15,000; FY20-21 Mental Health Grant: \$20,000

NPO Membership:	Yes - Active
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Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for a lesser amount of \$5,000

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

Palo Verde Mental Health Grant #1 at 2:15 PM (Attach 7) Action Required

Organization:	Peace from Chaos
Program:	Restoring Wellness Through Community-Driven Whole Person Care
Requested Amount:	\$90,000
Peace From Chaos 91 (PFC) is a community trusted, grassroots nonprofit based solely in Blythe, California, serving the extremely rural and under served Palo Verde Valley. As community members first, we deliver 24/7 bilingual mental health advocacy, peer support, and crisis response to over 10,500 residents. Founded in honor of Steven "Chaos" Camou, our work is grounded in lived experience, cultural humility, and the belief that every individual deserves equitable access to mental, emotional, physical, and social wellness. We are seeking \$90,000 annually for a \$180,000 total over two years to expand and strengthen these essential services. PFC has been instrumental in bringing these issues and gaps to the surface and engage the community to directly address these ongoing needs. PFC at its core was founded to perform this specific work on behalf of our community and only for Blythe and the Palo Valley.	
Representative:	Angela Colangeli
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 66,74,91
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Palo Verde Valley: \$90,000 + up to \$8,000 NPO Consulting Services. FY24-25 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY22-23: \$1,793.79
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Staff Recommendation: To approve the request for a lower amount of \$63,750 due to the grant performance and NPO participation review.

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

VIII. Discussion Items:

- I. Due to limited funding availability, the Grants Manager recommends that the FY 2026–27 Small Grant application period close on February 28, 2027, to ensure that available funds remain sufficient to support approved grant awards.

Staff Recommendation: To approve closing the Small Grants application by February 28, 2027.

Motion:				

- II. ***NPO-Centric Grant Process and Accountability:*** The Grants Manager discussed the NPO matter with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Grants Committee. They indicated that they would like to establish a process for any grantee receiving an NPO-centric grant to ensure appropriate accountability and oversight. However, following a subsequent discussion with the NPO Director, I learned that the NPO has an established a process that the Grants Committee does not have the authority to independently award NPO grants. Any such grant must instead proceed through the organization's standard grant application and approval process. However, the NPO Director will provide a summary of grant performance for any current NPO grant to support appropriate oversight and accountability.

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

a. **Denial Notice:**

1-Inland Equity Community Land Trust: Small Grant \$10,000

2-Tolerance Education Center: \$10,000

3-Word of Life Fellowship - The Bridge to Better Homeless Project: \$10,000

The requests scored below the threshold criteria.

b. **Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, October 12, 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.