

DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Introduction

Health and wellness were a leading concern in 2022, as communities continued to navigate a response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, emerging MPOX (Monkeypox) virus, and more.

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation met the Coachella Valley's challenges with a collaborative approach that centered health as a human right. This annual report shows how the agency supported the work of many nonprofit partners through a robust grants program and diverse public health initiatives. It implemented a collective outreach that included providing thousands of COVID-19 tests and vaccines, and acquiring a new, 26-foot, mobile, medical clinic for the community.

As the District celebrates its 75th year in 2023, its Board of Directors, staff and partners remain committed to advancing community wellness in the Coachella Valley with an emphasis on the most vulnerable residents.

Mission: To achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all District residents.

Vision: Equitably connecting Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness services and programs through philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.



At A Glance

1948 – The Desert Healthcare District is established as a local governmental agency to build Desert Hospital to serve Palm Springs and other western Coachella Valley communities.

1967 – The Desert Healthcare Foundation is formed with its own separate board to support the nonprofit hospital's activities.

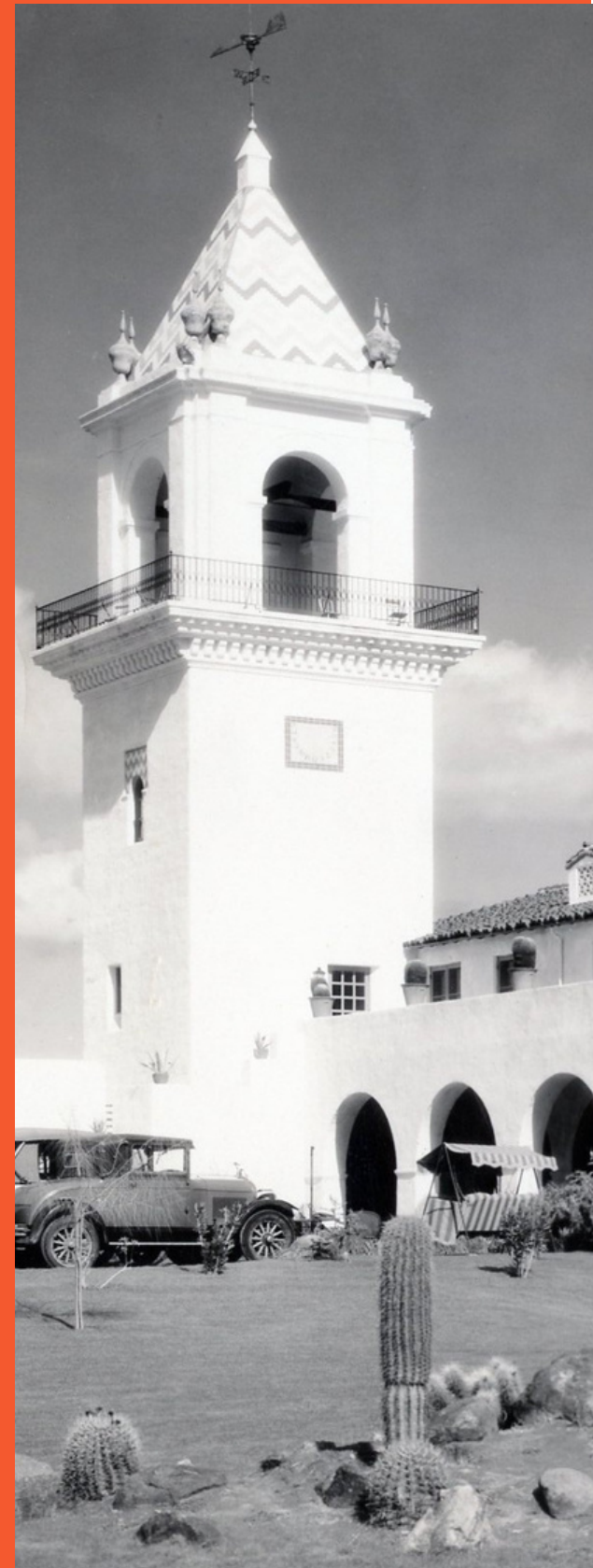
1997 – The District Board leases the hospital to Tenet Health for 30 years and, with the Foundation, shifts focus to support community health and wellness programs.

2018 – Coachella Valley voters approve expanding the District's geographic boundary east of Cook Street to encompass the entire valley, more than 400,000 residents.

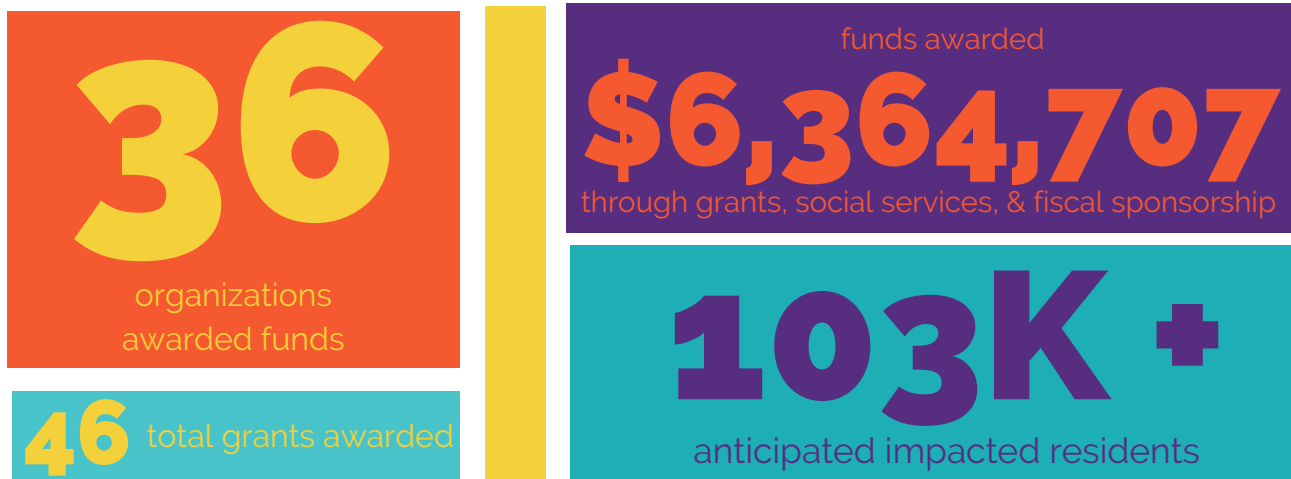
7 – With District expansion in 2018, the Board increases from five to seven elected Directors who serve a 4-year term.

\$92.7 million – Total funds awarded by the District since 1998.

2020 – The District earns certification for best practices from both the California Special Districts Association and the Association of California Healthcare Districts.



District & Foundation Highlights of 2022



As a respected public agency, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation is often called upon to act as a fiscal sponsor or steward of county, state and federal funds.

In this role, the agency has the capacity to leverage funds it receives to encourage contributions from other organizations to public health initiatives that benefit the Coachella Valley.

A portion of the total grants the District and Foundation awarded in 2022 includes the following funds it received from Riverside County Public Health to support the ongoing COVID-19 response:

- \$50,000 to Alianza Coachella Valley
- \$170,000 to El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
- \$70,000 to Galilee Center
- \$300,000 to TODEC
- \$35,000 to Youth Leadership Institute

Total: \$625,000

Grant-funded Services Include:

- Improving access to healthcare in Desert Highland Gateway Estates (Borrego Health)
- Advocacy and support for youth in the foster care system (Voices for Children)
- Healthcare career pathway program for local students (OneFuture Coachella Valley)
- Mobile vision services for underserved children (Vision to Learn)
- Street medicine program for unhoused & others (California State University San Bernardino)
- Free medical clinic (Volunteers in Medicine)

Desert Healthcare District (DHCD) Grants Program & Grantees

The Desert Healthcare District's grants program supports collaborative processes and invests in the services and programs of local nonprofits, health service providers, and public agencies that align with and advance the District's mission, vision, and the implementation of its Strategic Plan.

2022 Grant Award Recipients

- ABC Recovery Center
- Al Horton Memorial Rotary Foundation
- Alianza Coachella Valley
- Alianza Nacional De Campesinas Inc.
- Angel View
- Blood Bank of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties Inc.
- Clinicas De Salud Del Pueblo Inc.
- CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation
- DAP Health
- Desert Arc
- Desert Recreation Foundation
- Desert Sands Unified School District Educational Foundation
- DPMG Health
- Desert Regional Medical Center – Auxiliary
- Eisenhower Medical Center
- El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
- Foundation of Palm Springs Unified School District
- Galilee Center
- Hanson House Foundation Inc.
- Hidden Harvest
- Jewish Family Service of the Desert
- John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation
- The Joslyn Center
- Martha's Village & Kitchen Inc.
- Olive Crest
- OneFuture Coachella Valley
- Pueblo Unido CDC
- Riverside County Latino Commission
- Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Foundation
- TODEC Legal Center
- Transgender Health & Wellness Center
- University of California, Riverside
- Vision to Learn
- Vision y Compromiso
- Voices For Children
- Youth Leadership Institute



Grant applications are being accepted. To learn more, visit <https://www.dhcd.org/Grant-Programs>

Strategic Plan

The District implemented its new five-year strategic plan, which the Board approved in October 2021. The plan identified the following goals to inform the District and Foundation's (DHCD/F) funding and programmatic decisions.

Goal 1 (G.1)	Proactively increase the financial resources DHCD/F can apply to support community needs
Goal 2 (G.2)	Proactively expand community access to primary and specialty care services
Goal 3 (G.3)	Proactively expand community access to behavioral/mental health services
Goal 4 (G.4)	Proactively measure and evaluate the impact of DHCD/F-funded programs and services on the health of community residents
Goal 5 (G.5)	Be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the economic stability of the District residents
Goal 6 (G.6)	Be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the environment in the District's service area
Goal 7 (G.7)	Be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the general education of the District's residents

Public Health Initiatives

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative, founded by the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation with the support of Riverside University Health System - Public Health and other partners, hosted 138 vaccination events and 278 testing sites.

MOBILE UNIT

With the financial support of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation purchased a 26-foot-long mobile medical clinic to improve access to healthcare services.

MPOX RESPONSE

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation partnered with DAP Health to increase our community's visibility and advocate for more MPOX vaccines in the Coachella Valley.

CONNECT IE

The Desert Healthcare Foundation fully merged its community resource website with ConnectIE.org, the Inland Empire Health Plan's robust online resource for accessible, low-cost or free, medical services and more.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

With the support of Riverside University Health System - Behavioral Health, the Healthcare District coordinated a collective of more than 50 stakeholders to identify high priority behavioral health needs and to create programs to address them.

ADVANCING HEALTHCARE ACCESS FOR BLACK RESIDENTS

To improve racial equity, we partnered with Borrego Health to deliver health and wellness services to Black/African American residents and awarded scholarships to 11 Black and African American students pursuing health careers.

CLEAN AIR/ENVIRONMENT

The District and Foundation advanced our commitment to work in collaboration with community partners to address and lessen the health effects of environmental hazards such as the highly saline Salton Sea and illegal dump fires.

Public Health Initiative | COVID-19 Response

Goals: G.2

Two years into the COVID-19 pandemic, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation continued its role as the lead organizer of the Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative (supported by **Riverside University Health System - Public Health**). The Collaborative's response to COVID-19 in the Coachella Valley included:

In 2022:



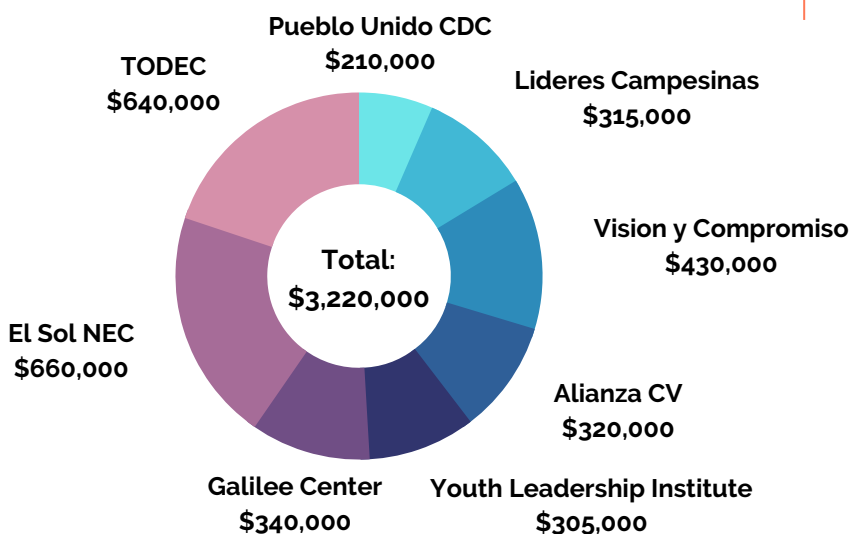
Since the Collaborative was formed in 2020

23,437 COVID-19 tests given at 318 events
47,250 vaccine doses given at 369 events

Grants Received:

\$725,000 - Public Health Institute
 \$3,150,000 - Riverside County Public Health

Funds Awarded to Collaborative Partners Since 2020



Our Partners

Medical Partners

- Borrego Health
- CV Pharmacy
- Rite Aid Pharmacies
- Riverside University Health System - Public Health

Community Partners

- Cabazon Band of Cahuilla Indians
- California Farmworker Foundation
- Cathedral City Senior Center
- Coachella Valley Unified School District
- City of Palm Springs- James O. Jesse Community Center
- Desert Recreation District
- Desert Sands Unified School District
- Growing Coachella Valley
- The Joslyn Center
- Palm Springs Unified School District
- San Bernardino Catholic Diocese
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla District

Public Health Initiative | Mobile Medical Clinic

Goals: G.2, G.3

A new, 26-foot, mobile medical clinic — purchased by the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation with the financial support of the Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District — was unveiled December 2. Licensed and operated by Desert Physicians Medical Group (DPMG) Health, the mobile clinic reflects our commitment to remove barriers to healthcare, such as transportation, for traditionally underserved residents. The Board allocated \$336,500 for the purchase (\$197,000 was the final cost) and another \$500,000 to operate the clinic for over 3 years.

Funds Received & Allocated for Clinic:

Mobile Unit and Equipment Purchase

- Desert Healthcare District - \$336,500
- Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District - \$175,000

Mobile Clinic Operations

- DPMG Health - \$500,000 over 3 years from the Healthcare District

Medical & Academic Partners

DPMG Health/Desert Regional Medical Center Residents
California State University - San Bernardino Nursing Program

Partners (Nonprofits)

Alianza Coachella Valley
California Farmworker Foundation
El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
Galilee Center
Growing Coachella Valley
Lideres Campesinas
Pueblo Unido CDC
TODEC
Vision y Compromiso



Public Health Initiative | MPOX Response

Goals: G.2

When the MPOX (monkeypox) virus began affecting the Coachella Valley, cases first appeared among men who have sex with men. Despite the valley's significant population of LGBTQ residents and visitors, the state vaccine rollout did not initially meet the local need. The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation collaborated with DAP Health to increase our community's visibility and advocate for more vaccines.

Strategy:

- A full-page public service announcement was co-created by DAP Health and Desert Healthcare District and Foundation to gain the attention of state lawmakers and public health officials. The PSA appeared in The Sacramento Bee and The Desert Sun.
- Early during the MPOX response, at least half of all MPOX cases identified in Riverside County were located in the Coachella Valley. To prevent the spread of the virus, the District and Foundation supported DAP Health's additional outreach and clinical services through a grant.

Funding:

- \$586,727 grant awarded to DAP Health in September
- \$13,000 for public service announcement in August

DAP Health (as of Jan. 1, 2023):

- Provided 245 MPOX tests
- Administered 5,744 vaccines
- Provided MPOX treatment to 16 people and 4 hotel stays for people recovering from MPOX
- MPOX hotline has responded to 3,076 calls and emails; an average of 42 inquires per day

Public Health Initiative | CONNECT IE

Goals: G.2, G.3

The Desert Healthcare Foundation fully merged its community resource website with ConnectIE.org, the Inland Empire Health Plan's robust online resource. Coachella Valley residents can now discover thousands of free and reduced-cost medical and community services.

Partners:

- Inland Empire Health Plan (Principal Partner)
- Find Help
- Inland SoCal United Way
- Inland SoCal 211+
- Inland Empire Health Information Organization



Funding:

- \$73,663 from Inland Empire Health Plan
- \$28,454 from Desert Healthcare Foundation

Training & Onboarding for Valley Nonprofits:

43

**Community
Presentations**

15

**Community-Based
Organizations
Onboarded**

27

**Social Media
Posts**

3,438

**Users in 4th
Quarter of 2022**

Public Health Initiative | Behavioral Health



Goals: G.3

More than 50 stakeholders from partner organizations and agencies met throughout the year to identify high priority behavioral health needs that align with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Strategic Plan and could benefit from focused support.

Co-founded by **Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health**, this collaborative effort advanced implementation of the District and Foundation's Behavioral Health Initiative. In recent years, the Board has allocated \$4 million for the initiative.

The convenings, which are coordinated by the District and Foundation's senior program officer for behavioral health, are expected to transition in 2023 to a Coachella Valley-focused behavioral health collective.

Behavioral health grants that were approved in 2022 totaled \$2,680,832. They were awarded to serve 11,947 District residents over a two-year period in the following ways:

- Delivery of behavioral health support services to vulnerable and underserved communities
- Workforce expansion projects including additional scholarship support to District students including Black and African American scholars and support for post-Masters graduates entering the behavioral health field
- Trauma and mental health support services for immigrant communities
- Expansion of trusted messenger/promotores networks to disseminate access linkage information to our community members
- Expanded behavioral health education and prevention services to children (0-18) and their families including school-based supportive services
- Specific support to transgender and nonbinary communities
- Improved access to wellness support services for older adults
- Substance use recovery support

Public Health Initiative | Healthcare Access & Scholarships for Black Residents

Goals: G.2, G.3

Improving access to healthcare in Desert Highland Gateway Estates (Borrego Health)

- Through the weekly mobile medical clinic, Borrego provided services to pediatrics, teens, and adults that included immunizations, COVID-19 tests/vaccines, physical exams, well child exams, and flu vaccines.
- Specialty service referrals for behavioral health, dental, cardiac, and other specialty care services – patients were offered free transportation to one of Borrego's standing clinics.
- Treated 163 uninsured patients and enrolled 114 of those into an insurance program.

Scholarships for Black Residents

The first recipients of a new health-oriented scholarship launched by the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation completed their first of two years covered by the scholarship. Managed by OneFuture Coachella Valley, the scholarship program was designed to improve racial equity in health professions. It benefits Black and African American students in the Coachella Valley who are pursuing careers in which people of color are underrepresented.

The District and Foundation's initial \$200,000 grant to OneFuture provided \$5,000 to \$10,000 scholarships. Two of the 11 recipients finished their studies in the spring, one dropped out, and eight continued into 2023.

In December, the District and Foundation Board approved an additional \$605,000 grant for OneFuture: \$200K for scholarships for Black/African American students, \$250K to support graduate-level students preparing for clinical professions, and \$155K to cover OneFuture's case management (wrap around services)/holistic student support services.

First-year Recipients

3 Seniors 3 Juniors 2 Sophomores

Major(s)

5 in Nursing, 1 in Biology/Pre-Med, 1 in Kinesiology/Health, 1 Undetermined

College Type

2 Private, 2 Out of State, 2 at CSU, 1 at UC, 1 in Community College

Community

4 West Valley, 3 East Valley, 1 Mid-Valley

School District

4 from Palm Springs Unified School District,
1 from Desert Sands Unified School District, and 3 out of the valley.

Public Health Initiative | Clean Air/Environment

Goals: G.6

The District and Foundation advanced our commitment to work in collaboration with community partners to address and lessen the health effects of environmental hazards such as the highly saline Salton Sea and illegal dump fires.

Air Quality Community Training & Air Quality Monitoring

Partners

- Alianza Coachella Valley (Alianza CV)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Health Assessment and Research for Communities (HARC)
- U.S Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)

Funding

- \$27,000 from U.S. EPA TO DHCD
- \$40,000 to Alianza CV from Avery Trust Funds and U.S. EPA

Coachella Valley Air Quality and Health Analysis

Partners

- Public Health Institute (Principal Partner)

Funding

- \$250,000 to PHI from Avery Trust Funds*

Air Quality Emergency Communciation Plan

Partners

- CONCUR Inc. (Principal Partner)
- Alianza CV
- Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
- California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CAL Fire)
- Coachella Valley Unified School District
- Leadership Counsel
- Pueblo Unido CDC
- Office of Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
- Office of Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia
- Office of Congressman Raul Ruiz
- Riverside County Fire Department
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians

Funding

- \$191,573 to CONCUR Inc. from Avery Trust Funds*

Awards & Honors

The District received two of the Association of California Healthcare District's three annual state awards: Conrado Bárzaga, MD, as CEO of the Year, and Leticia De Lara as Trustee of the Year (Bárzaga is pictured top right, center.)



February 5 - 12th Annual Palm Springs Black History Committee Philanthropist of the Year (District & Foundation)

February 14 - Palm Springs Human Rights Commission 2022 Community Service Award (District & Foundation)

March 29 - Director Leticia De Lara was honored as Woman of the Year by Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez for District 4 (pictured, front row)



April 5 - Riverside County Department of Public Health's Public Health Champion Award (District & Foundation)

April 13 - The Joslyn Center's Merritt and Penney Joslyn Award (District & Foundation)

May 25 - Director Leticia De Lara was one of three Women Who Lead recognized by Palm Springs Life magazine

Nov. 4 - Outgoing Director Karen Borja received the 2022 Friend of Pride Award from Greater Coachella Valley Pride

Nov. 11 - 2022 VIMY Award from the Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine, awarded to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation



Board & Staff

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation is governed by a 7-member Board of Directors, elected by voters to serve. In 2022, incumbents Carole Rogers and Evett PerezGil were unchallenged and were reappointed to serve. Director Karen Borja did not seek re-election, and her Zone 6 seat was filled by Kimberly Barraza.

Current Board of Directors

Les Zendle, MD, Zone 1
Carole Rogers, RN, MPH, Zone 2
Carmina Zavala, PsyD, MA, Zone 3
Evett PerezGil, Zone 4
Arthur Shorr, Zone 5
Kimberly Barraza, Zone 6
Leticia De Lara, MPA, Zone 7

Current Staff

Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD, Chief Executive Officer
Chris Christensen, CPA, Chief Administration Officer
Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer
Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, CHES, Chief of Community Engagement
Meghan Kane, MPH, Senior Program Officer – Public Health
Jana Trew, MS, Senior Program Officer – Behavioral Health
Andrea S. Hayles, Special Assistant to the CEO and Board Relations Officer
Erica Huskey, Administrative and Program Assistant
Eric Taylor, Accounting Manager
Sergio Rodríguez, Program Assistant
Will Dean, Director of Communications and Marketing
Consuelo Márquez, Communications Assistant

To learn more about our current Board of Directors and Staff, visit <https://www.dhcd.org/About-Us> or scan the QR code.



Look Ahead

Healthcare Infrastructure

Working with a consulting team, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation expects the completion and delivery of an infrastructure roadmap in early 2023 to identify gaps in healthcare services to target future funding in support of its Strategic Plan (G.2, G.3).

Building Capacity

A partnership between the District and Foundation and the Regional Access Project Foundation's NPO Centric program will focus on providing technical assistance and educational resources to community-based nonprofits to improve their organizational capacity.

Donations

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation provides two opportunities for the public to support advancing community wellness in the Coachella Valley as described below:

Social Services Fund

Each year, the Desert Healthcare Foundation provides funding to Coachella Valley hospitals and cancer centers to assist uninsured and underinsured patients with emergent healthcare needs and services determined by hospital case management counselors. These services include food vouchers, gas vouchers, transportation home from a facility, and limited prescriptions.

Wellness Park

The Palm Springs park features exercise equipment, recreational seating, and numerous healing, fragrant plants for Desert Regional Medical Center patients, community residents and visitors to enjoy. It also provides naming opportunities to honor a loved one by purchasing a bench, tree and other park features.

Learn more: <https://www.dhcd.org/Wellness-Park>
(or scan QR code)





To donate, please make your check or other payment payable to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation. Indicate on the memo line which fund you're supporting. A name, address and phone number must be included with the payment. All donations are tax-deductible, and a tax document will be provided. Remit to:

Attn.: Chris Christensen, CAO
Desert Healthcare District and Foundation
1140 N. Indian Canyon Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Email: cchristensen@dhcd.org

Contact Us

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