



**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
Program Committee Meeting  
March 9, 2021  
12:30 P.M.**

**Or Immediately Following the Program Committee Desert Healthcare District Meeting**

**In lieu of attending the meeting in person, members of the public will be able to participate by webinar by using the following Zoom link:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88581223164?pwd=VVVGbkQ3Y1NZUG90RkFySFQ3eVVwQT09>**

**Password: 002888**

**Participants will need to download the Zoom app on their mobile devices. Members of the public may also be able to participate by telephone, using the follow dial in information:**

**Dial in #:(669) 900-6833 To Listen and Address the Board when called upon:**

**Webinar ID: 885 8122 3164**

<i>Page(s)</i>	<b>AGENDA</b>	<i>Item Type</i>
	<b>I. Call to Order</b> – Director Evett PerezGil, Committee Chairperson	
1-2	<b>II. Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Action</b>
3-8	<b>III. Meeting Minutes</b> 1. February 09, 2021	<b>Action</b>
	<b>IV. Public Comments</b> At this time, comments from the audience may be made on items <u>not</u> listed on the agenda that are of public interest and within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the District. The Committee has a policy of limiting speakers to not more than three minutes. The Committee cannot take action on items not listed on the agenda. Public input may be offered on an agenda item when it comes up for discussion and/or action.	
	<b>V. Old Business</b>	
	1. Advancing the District’s Role in Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Black Communities in the Coachella Valley	Information
	a. Update – Request for Proposals (RFP) – Access to Healthcare Strategies - \$575,000 (\$400,000 DHCD plus \$100,000 Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP), and (\$75,000 Lift to Rise)	Information
	2. Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative	Information
	a. Vaccination Distribution – Update	
9-10	3. Grant Payment Schedules	Information



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**VI. New Business**

- |              |  |               |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| <b>11-15</b> | <b>1. Homelessness Initiative</b><br>a. Consideration to recommend to the Board of Directors the approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Desert Healthcare Foundation and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments in the amount of \$500,000 for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 to support the current homelessness programs through the CV Housing First program. | <b>Action</b> |
| <b>16-17</b> | <b>2. Authorization to amend contract numbers 1161, 1156, 1159, and 1154 with TODEC Legal Center, El Sol NEC, Lideres Campesinas, and Vision y Compromiso respectively, to extend and expand COVID-19 Outreach and Education efforts to increase the number of at-risk community members who are fully vaccinated</b>  | <b>Action</b> |

**VII. Committee Member Comments**

**VIII. Adjournment**

Next Scheduled Meeting March 9, 2021

Information



**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 09, 2021**

Directors & Community Members Present	District Staff Present via Video Conference	Absent
Chair, Evett PerezGil Vice-President Karen Borja Director Carmina Zavala	Conrado E. Bázaga, MD, Chief Executive Officer Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Director of Outreach Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst Erica Huskey, Administrative and Program Assistant Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>I. Call to Order</b>	The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. by Chair PerezGil.	
<b>II. Approval of Agenda</b>	Chair PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	<b>Moved and seconded by Vice-President Borja and Director Zavala to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.</b>
<b>III. Meeting Minutes</b> <b>1. January 12, 2021</b>	Chair PerezGil asked for a motion to approve the January 12, 2021 minutes.	<b>Moved and seconded by Vice-President Borja and Director Zavala to approve the January 12, 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.</b>
<b>IV. Public Comment</b>	There was no public comment.	
<b>V. New Business</b>  <b>1. Behavioral Health Initiative</b> <b>a. Consideration to forward to the Board of Directors the recommendation to contribute a match of \$150,000 to the Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) to support the organization's Health/Mental Health Initiative 2021.01</b>	Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, described the release of the Request for Proposals (RFP) of the Regional Access Project (RAP) Mental Health Initiative for \$150,000. RAP is requesting that the Foundation, through the Behavioral Health Initiative funds, consider forwarding to the Board a recommendation of a \$150k match allocation totaling \$300k. To date, over \$400k in requests have been submitted and reviewed by RAP and District staff.	<b>Moved and seconded by Director Zavala and Vice-President Borja to forward to the Board of Directors the recommendation to contribute a match of \$150,000 to the Regional Access Project Foundation (RAP) to support the organization's Health/Mental Health Initiative 2021.01. Motion passed unanimously.</b>



**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
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	<p>The \$150K additional allocation will strengthen the behavioral health needs from the \$2M Behavioral Health Initiative Collective Fund. Out of the \$150K match it is requested that \$10k is set aside towards training organizations for RBA or Results-Based Accountability that will enhance and improve evaluations of the organizations' program's community impact.</p>	
<p><b>VI. Old Business</b></p> <p><b>1. Homelessness Initiative</b></p> <p><b>2. Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative</b></p> <p><b>a. Vaccination Distribution Plan – Update</b></p>	<p>Donna Craig, Chief, Program Officer, detailed a meeting with Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez to discuss the District's Homelessness Initiative and focus areas of alignment with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) efforts in response to the Board's direction to combat homelessness in the area.</p> <p>Dr. Bárzaga, CEO, described the vaccination efforts and applying the equity lens to eliminate barriers for access to healthcare. An underserved community impacted by COVID is the farm working community that staff is anticipating and advocating for the county to consider farmworkers as a priority and identify the first batch of vaccines and organizing events that are now moving forward every day to the fields and packing houses.</p>	

**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
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<p><b>3. Advancing the District’s Role in Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Black Communities in the Coachella Valley</b></p> <p><b>a. Expanding Racial Diversity in the Health Profession Workforce – Consideration to approve Grant #1148 OneFuture Coachella Valley: Black and African American Healthcare Scholarship and Student Success Initiative – \$200,000 for two (2) years</b></p>	<p>Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Office of Supervisor Perez, stated that on behalf of the Supervisor and the public, Mr. Rodriguez thanked the staff as a vital partner with the Supervisor advocating for testing and vaccinations and the efforts would not be possible without the District, a model for other organizations throughout the state to address the equity disparities. Using community members to assist with the efforts there is less vaccine hesitation and targeting the necessary areas for more effectiveness.</p> <p>Donna Craig, Chief Program Officer, explained that although the Request for Proposals to access the healthcare strategies is not on the agenda, the Foundation has not received any proposals to date with the deadline approaching in the coming days.</p> <p>Ms. Craig described the concept presented to the committee and recommendation to the Board for an additional \$100k for access to healthcare services, allocating funds, and creating scholarships and a student initiative as a grant to OneFuture Coachella Valley. Funding to OneFuture addresses the planning phase of development for a sustainable structure and the initial launch to address disparities and obstacles based</p>	<p><b>Moved and seconded by Vice President Borja and Director Zavala to forward to the Board of Directors the recommendation to approve Grant #1148, \$200,000 for two years, to One Future CV. Motion passed unanimously.</b></p>
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**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
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	<p>on prior preparations, such as advisory groups.</p> <p>Vice-President Borja explained that the Zone she represents in parts of Indio has a traumatic history of land use in the Black community and inquired <del>she is</del> how OneFuture is reaching out to Black students in Indio, further explaining that the timeline is not sustainable beyond 2 years.</p> <p>Sheila Thorton, President/CEO, OneFuture Coachella Valley, described the work of the organization over the past 15 years with the nonprofit partners, referrals, and host coordination that are in touch with the students and not targeting just one city, such as Indio. OneFuture works closely with the students in the school district as early as Freshman year working with the teachers and counselors with the OneFuture staff presenting on the scholarship process. Two years of assistance with building the structure in the key strategic areas and it's a driver and connection to the students and support systems to engage and remain involved in a pathway to enrollment, financial aid, assessment of affordability, and a connection after college. Peer mentors and a sustainability plan are the backbones for alignment teams.</p>	
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**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
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<p><b>4. Grant Payment Schedules</b></p>	<p>Vice-President Borja described sustainability grants, such as support from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund, explaining that this particular program is not as long term as other organizations.</p> <p>Ms. Thorton clarified that it is an area the collaborative has not placed attention to as the criteria have been focused on low-income Latinx students. When the opportunity arose OneFuture moved forward with the proposal to assist Black and African American students.</p> <p>Kim McNulty, Vice President of Regional Strategy, OneFuture Coachella Valley, and Ernie Rios, Vice President of College Success, OneFuture Coachella Valley, were available to answer any questions of the committee members.</p> <p>Chair PerezGil described the grant payment schedule and inquired on any questions of the committee.</p>	
<p><b>VII. Committee Member Comments</b></p>	<p>Chair PerezGil explained that she is proud of the staff's work with the vaccinations receiving positive feedback from members of the community who are appreciative of the resources.</p>	
<p><b>VIII. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Chair PerezGil adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Audio recording available on the website at <a href="http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents">http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents</a></b></p>



**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 09, 2021**

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evet PerezGil, Chair/Director Program Committee

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board*

DRAFT



**DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION  
OUTSTANDING GRANTS AND GRANT PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

February 28, 2021

TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

A/C 2190 and A/C 2186-Long term		6/30/2020	New Grants	Total Paid	2/28/2021	
		Open	Current Yr	July-June	Open	
Grant ID Nos.	Name	BALANCE	2020-2021	July-June	BALANCE	
Health Portal	Remaining Collective Funds-Mayor's Race & DHCF	\$ 110,105		\$ 37,129	\$ 72,976	HP-cvHIP
BOD - 04/24/18	Behavioral Health Initiative Collective Fund	\$ 1,952,000		\$ -	\$ 1,952,000	Behavioral Health
BOD - 06/26/18 BOD	Avery Trust Funds-Committed to Pulmonary services	\$ 919,801		\$ 63,380	\$ 856,421	Avery Trust
BOD - 5/28/19 BOD (#993)	Galilee Center - Emergency Services	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500	\$ -	
BOD - 6/25/19 BOD (#1006)	DHCD - Homelessness Initiative Collective Fund	\$ 711,383		\$ 115,669	\$ 595,714	Homelessness
F&A - 06/11/19	\$300k Grant Funding Commitment FY18-19 - \$225k Balance	\$ 119,156		\$ 95,000	\$ 24,156	EV Funding
BOD - 9/26/17; 10/23/18; 09/24/19 (#1025)	RSS Funds-From Investment Funds & DHCD Grants	\$ 174,279		\$ 903	\$ 173,376	RSS
	Reclass Unexpended Balance for COVID-19 Per BOD 10/27/20				\$ (173,376)	
F&A - 06/09/20	\$300k Grant Funding Commitment FY19-20	\$ 300,000		\$ -	\$ 300,000	
BOD - 07/28/20 (#1134)	DHCD/IEHP - Addressing the Healthcare Needs of Black Communities		\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000	
	IEHP Contribution to Grant #1134 (Aug 2020)		\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
	Lift To Rise Contribution to Grant #1134 (Dec 2020)		\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	
BOD - 02/23/21 BOD (#1148)	OneFuture - Black and African American Healthcare Scholarship - 2 yrs		\$ 200,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>		<b>\$ 4,294,223</b>	<b>\$ 725,000</b>	<b>\$ 319,581</b>	<b>\$ 4,526,266</b>	
<b>Summary: As of 02/28/2021</b>						
Health Portal (CVHIP):	\$ 72,976			A/C 2190	\$ 2,926,266	
Ready Set Swim	\$ -			A/C 2186	\$ 1,600,000	
West Valley Homelessness Initiative	\$ 595,714			<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,526,266</b>	
Behavioral Health Initiative Collective Fund	\$ 1,952,000			Diff	\$ (0)	
Avery Trust - Pulmonary Services	\$ 856,421					
Galilee Center - Emergency Services	\$ -					
East Valley Grant Funding Commitment	\$ 324,156					
Healthcare Needs of Black Communities	\$ 725,000					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,526,266</b>					
<b>Amts available/remaining for Grant/Programs - FY 2020-21:</b>						
<b>Amount budgeted 2020-2021</b>		\$ 1,330,000	\$ 1,000,000	<b>FY21 Grant Budget</b>	<b>Social Services Fund #5054</b>	
<b>Amount granted year to date</b>		\$ (725,000)	\$ 330,000	Budget	\$ 60,000	
Mini Grants:				DRMC Auxiliary	\$ 20,000	Spent YTD
Net adj - Grants not used:				<b>Balance Available</b>	\$ 40,000	
Contributions / Additional Funding	IEHP \$50,000 - LIFT TO RISE \$75,000	\$ 125,000				
<b>Balance available for Grants/Programs</b>		<b>\$ 730,000</b>				

DESERT HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION						
OUTSTANDING PASS-THROUGH GRANTS AND GRANT PAYMENT SCHEDULE						
February 28, 2021						
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021						
A/C 2183			6/30/2020	New Grants		2/28/2021
Grant ID Nos.	Name		Open	Current Yr	Total Paid	Open
			BALANCE	2020-2021	July-June	BALANCE
<b>BOD - 10/20/20 - Contract #21-024</b>	<b>Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and Center for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection funding from Riverside County - \$1.2 Million (\$960,000 for grants)</b>					
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1152)	Galilee Center - Emergency Services			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1154)	Vision Y Compromiso - Stop the Spread of COVID-19			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1155)	Pueblo Unido CDC - Coachella Valley COVID-19 Collaborative			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1156)	El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center - Coachella Valley COVID-19 Collaborative			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1157)	Youth Leadership Institute - COVID-19 ECV Collaborative			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1158)	Alianza Coachella Valley - ECV COVID-19 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS PLAN			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1159)	Lideres Campesinas, Inc. - Take It to the Fields Initiative			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
BOD - 10/20/20 (#1161)	Todec Legal Center Perris - Sembrando Prevencion			\$ 120,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000
<b>BOD - 12/15/20 - Contract</b>	<b>Together Toward Health funding, a Program of the Public Health Institute - \$500,000 (\$445,000 for grants)</b>					
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1172)	El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center - Coachella Valley COVID-19 Collaborative			\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ 140,000
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1175)	Pueblo Unido, CDC			\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1176)	Galilee Center - Emergency Services			\$ 25,000	\$ 18,750	\$ 6,250
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1179)	Youth Leadership Institute			\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1180)	Alianza Coachella Valley			\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1181)	Vision Y Compromiso - Promotoras and the Coachella Valley COVID-19 Collaborative			\$ 140,000	\$ 105,000	\$ 35,000
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1185)	Lideras Campesinas, Inc.			\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
BOD - 12/15/20 (#1189)	Todec Legal Center Perris - Sembrando Prevencion			\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000
<b>TOTAL GRANTS</b>			\$ -	\$ 1,415,000	\$ 628,750	\$ 786,250
					A/C 2183	\$ 786,250
					Diff	\$ -
	CARES/ELC Administrative Costs			\$ 240,000	\$ 116,468	\$ 123,532
	Public Health Institute Administrative Costs			\$ 45,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</b>			\$ -	\$ 285,000	\$ 116,468	\$ 168,532
<b>Amts available/remaining for Grant/Programs - FY 2020-21:</b>						
<b>Amount granted year to date</b>		\$ (1,415,000)			<b>Grant Funds</b>	
Mini Grants:					<b>CARES/ELC</b>	<b>PHI</b>
Net adj - Grants not used:				Total Grant	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 500,000
Foundation Administration Costs		\$ (285,000)		Received to Date	\$ 900,000	\$ 400,000
Contributions / Additional Funding	CARES \$600,000 & ELC \$600,000 & PHI \$500,000	\$ 1,700,000		<b>Balance Remaining</b>	\$ 300,000	\$ 100,000
<b>Balance available for Grants/Programs</b>		\$ -				
<b>Summary: As of 02/28/2021</b>						
Riverside County COVID-19 Support	\$				603,532	
Public Health Institute Support	\$				351,250	
<b>Total</b>	\$				954,782	



**DESERT HEALTHCARE**  
DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

Date: March 9, 2021  
To: Program Committee  
Subject: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Desert Healthcare District and Foundation and Coachella Valley Association of Governments – CV Housing First Program

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**Background:**

- The Desert Healthcare District/Foundation established a \$2 million matching fund, the West Valley Homelessness Initiative, in 2016, with the intent to challenge Coachella Valley cities to continue to support homelessness efforts in the Valley in response to the closure of Roy's Desert Resource (a homeless shelter located in Palm Springs).
- The District/Foundation's Previous Financial Obligations to Homeless Matching Program are recapped as follows:  
2017-18 Matching: \$103,000 (6 cities and CVAG) = \$721,000  
2018-19 Matching: \$100,000 (7 cities) = \$700,000  
2020 Matching: \$100,000 to City of Coachella from a 2018-19 commitment
- In October 2020 CVAG sent a formal letter requesting the District continue the funding match program for fiscal year 20/21. At that time, CVAG was advised to present their request for the matching funds to be in the form of a grant application, with the intent to warrant equity, fairness and transparency through the District's grantmaking process.
- In January 2021, the match grant request was postponed so that the request could be framed more in a healthcare lens – such as concentrating on the chronically homeless whether it be streamlining hospital discharges and respite issues; or the precariously housed (students and their families); or case managers needed for the clients entering Crisis Stabilization Units; or rapid resolution/diversion efforts.
- On February 23, 2021 CVAG's Executive Director, Tom Kirk, gave an update to the DHCD Board of Directors on the CV Housing First program and specifically the success that CVAG has demonstrated since transitioning the CV Housing First program from a contracted service to one that is operated by CVAG staff.
- The board provided positive feedback and many directors expressed their support to continue with District funding.
- As CVAG is a JPA (Joint Powers Authority) and the Desert Healthcare District is a voting member on the Homelessness Committee, it has been determined that a continuation of the MOU process between the two entities is the best means of allocating funding support for the current programming and also expand the much-needed services as outlined in the attached report.

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the Desert Healthcare District and CVAG create a MOU that commits the District's funding to the CV Housing First program in the amount of \$500,000 for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

**Fiscal Impact:**

- N/A – Funds to be allocated from the Desert Healthcare Foundation's budgeted Homelessness Initiative.

## **CV Housing First Desert Healthcare District Funding Request**

**Background:** Recognizing the links between mental health and homelessness, the Desert Healthcare District/ Foundation has been a longstanding partner with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and the CV Housing First program. This program is based on a model that's proven successful nationwide, and is based on the philosophy is that once someone has a stable housing situation, they can then focus their attention on issues like maintaining employment and addressing addiction or mental health issues. The Coachella Valley's program includes an array of services like rapid re-housing and the use of crisis stabilization units, which are apartments rented under the contractor's name that allow CVAG to get someone under a roof almost immediately. The program also utilizes outreach strategies and focused case management to help clients.

Unlike previous regional programs to help the homeless, CV Housing First has had widespread and continued contributions from CVAG's members, which include the County of Riverside, Coachella Valley cities and tribal governments. This is in large part due to the fact that DHCD has, for the past two years, matched the contributions to CVAG for those jurisdictions who have allocated \$100,000 towards the CV Housing First program. The DHCD has matched those allocations dollar for dollar. This match has not only enabled CVAG to leverage additional funds from other revenue sources, but also inspired continued commitments from cities.

As then-Councilwoman Betty Sanchez said in a 2017 news release between DHCD and CVAG: "While the City of Coachella has been supportive of efforts to address homelessness, this is the first time that we've financially contributed to CVAG's programs. The Desert Healthcare District's match was a major influence in our decision. With the District's support, we know that our city's contribution will go twice as far to providing help to some of our valley's most vulnerable population."

With this staff report, it is recommended that the DHCD continue its partnership with CVAG in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) similar to the one previously used for the matching program.

The CV Housing First program utilizes the housing first model to address homelessness in the Coachella Valley. The program utilizes crisis stabilization units – which are apartments and hotel rooms – to provide temporary supportive housing while case managers work with individuals to find a stable income or public benefits and then get them into permanent housing solutions. CV Housing First also provides rapid resolution to quickly address those needs of individuals who have recently entered homelessness. These solutions could mean help to fix their car, which then provides them the transportation they need between their housing and work in order to sustain the job that keeps them off the streets.

On February 23, 2021 CVAG's Executive Director, Tom Kirk, gave an update to the DHCD Board of Directors on the CV Housing First program and specifically the success that CVAG has demonstrated since transitioning the CV Housing First program from a

contracted service to one that is operated by CVAG staff. This transition has included a focus on what CVAG calls the CV 200, a by-name list of chronically homeless individuals who have been identified by local law enforcement and other program providers as the most familiar faces. These are the highest utilizers of public resources: the ones who most interacting with public safety and police; most commonly loitering in front of local businesses; and most frequently showing up in the local emergency rooms to use healthcare system resources. By identifying these individuals, CVAG is using outreach and case management to get them off the streets, and into housing – thereby reducing the total costs to the general public.

The District's funding allows CV Housing First to not only sustain its program but also expand its services and address the needs of more homeless individuals. The operations of CV Housing First align with the District's Strategic Focus Area by providing comprehensive homeless services that include outreach, temporary placement, case management, permanent housing, and rapid resolution.

At the same time, and as was highlighted to the Board in February, the District's continued support will help CVAG ensure the CV Housing First program is working in tandem with local health resources. The Board provided positive feedback to the proposal and seemed impressed with the progress to date. Many directors expressed their support to continue with District funding.

Under the MOU, CVAG and the District will develop metrics that further demonstrate how the CV Housing First program is helping address the impacts the chronically homeless have on our healthcare systems. Specifically, these could include:

- **Rapid Resolution:**

As the Coachella Valley continue to experience the health and economic impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic, the need for additional rapid resolution funds will continue and most likely increase as we move through economic recovery. Rapid resolution have proven to be quite effective in rescuing those who have fallen into homelessness or just need a small amount of assistance for deposits, credit checks and other incidentals to get them out of chronic homelessness. Moving forward, CVAG is working with healthcare providers to see how rapid resolution could assist in discharge efforts from hospital settings.

- **Hospital Frequent Flyers and Discharge Planning:**

As part of the CV Housing First program, CVAG has started working with local healthcare providers to see how to combine resources to address CV200 clients. While being sensitive to medical privacy, CVAG is working closely with law enforcement and the hospitals on discharge planning. This may include utilizing crisis units or providing greater case management, thereby preventing discharge to the street or a shelter and instead directly into a unit with the proper wrap around services. Additional funding, including the contribution from DHCD, would allow CVAG to acquire more crisis stabilization units and support the work

of case managers. CV Housing First could be an additional tool that local hospitals could utilize in their state mandated discharge plans.

- **Respite Care:**

In conjunction with proper hospital discharge planning, there is still a need for more respite care in the Coachella Valley. CVAG would work with DHCD to identify the gaps and offer some initiatives to create more respite care, particularly tied to helping the CV 200 clients. CVAG has also initiated conversations with local nurses about opportunities to leveraging programs and better serve clients.

CVAG is proposing that the District and CVAG create a MOU that commits the District's funding to the CV Housing First program in the amount of \$500,000 for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Funding would not only help to support current programming and also expand these much-needed services, all under the terms outlined above. As previously noted, CVAG will work with the District to develop metrics that further demonstrate how the CV Housing First program is helping address the impacts the chronically homeless have on our healthcare systems

CVAG will continue to enhance its data gathering and metrics analyzation to identify program successes. CVAG will work to provide the District with quarterly updates on progress and challenges.



**DESERT HEALTHCARE**  
**DISTRICT & FOUNDATION**

Date: March 9, 2021  
To: Program Committee  
Subject: Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative Update

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**Staff Recommendation:** Action Item. Authorization to amend contract numbers 1161, 1156, 1159, and 1154 with TODEC Legal Center, El Sol NEC, Lideres Campesinas, and Vision y Compromiso to extend and expand COVID-19 Outreach and Education efforts to increase the number of at-risk community members who are fully vaccinated.

**Update:**

- On October 20, 2020, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board of Directors approved a contract with The County of Riverside Department of Public Health to receive \$1.2 million to support targeted community-based outreach, education, and **COVID-19 testing** in partnership with community- and faith-based organizations that serve vulnerable communities in Coachella Valley, with an emphasis on Eastern Coachella Valley. Additional funds were received from the Public Health Institute.
- The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation established and leads The Coachella Valley Equity Collaborative (CVEC), which has brought together community- and faith-based organizations, government agencies (county and state), and local farm owners to address the COVID-19 epidemic and ensure there is a coordinated effort to maximize resources and prevent overlap in services and/or outreach. Some of the organizations in the CVEC receive grant funding through the approved partnership with the County.
- Grant awards have been provided to several community-based organizations to implement COVID-19 response programs/services and develop new community-based outreach strategies, that include culturally and linguistically appropriate approaches using social media, print media, podcasts, PSA's, or testimonials. The recipients of the grant awards include:
  - Alianza Coachella Valley
  - Galilee Center
  - Pueblo Unido
  - Visión y Compromiso
  - El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center
  - Líderes Campesinas
  - TODEC
  - Youth Leadership Institute
- Of the eight grantee organizations, four have focused on the person-to-person outreach, education and the delivery COVID-19 tests, and contact tracing. These organizations are: TODEC Legal Center, El Sol NEC, Lideres Campesinas, and Vision y Compromiso. Their efforts are resource-intensive and require large staffing resources.
- Initially, Riverside County offered the tests and the partnering CBOs conducted outreach and helped with registration. However, at the end of December 2020 the Equity Collaborative undertook the testing activities in coordination with a County Officer.



- In January of 2021, new activities were added to the Collaborative: **vaccination** efforts. Vaccination efforts were included in the original contact with Riverside County Public Health.
- Existing efforts by the partnering CBOs have proven effective in advancing equity, by removing barriers that impede certain communities' access to COVID vaccines, such as linguistic, geographic, cultural, and healthcare access.
- Through the CVEC, a series of COVID-19 screening events have been scheduled throughout the Coachella Valley, not only on the eastern end of the valley but also in Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs (Desert Highland Gateway Estates), and Cathedral City.
- The success of the collaborative has led to additional organizations seeking assistance of the CVEC, including Rite Aid Pharmacies and the Desert Care Network.
- Additional resources are needed to hire additional promotores (Community Health Workers) in order to perform additional outreach, education, vaccine registration, and follow-up to ensure at-risk community members are fully vaccinated.
- Staff recommend amending the aforementioned contracts and grant an additional \$75,000 to each organization for a total of \$300,000.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$300,000 from the Access to Care grant-making allocation approved for the current fiscal year by DHCD. Staff will request \$300,000 transfer from the District to the Foundation.