



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RFP # 20250818

RELEASE DATE: August 18, 2025

**Empowering Resilient Youth and Families: Advancing Mental and Behavioral
Health Support**

RFP SUBMISSION DATE: October 10, 2025

FUNDING AVAILABLE: \$1,000,000

Proposal Contact: info@dhcd.org

DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT AND FOUNDATION
Empowering Resilient Youth and Families: Advancing Mental and Behavioral
Health Support

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
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I. TIMELINE

The RFP process will operate along the following timeline: [Note: The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (District and Foundation) reserves the right to modify the stated schedule of events at any time.]

Date	Activity
Monday, August 18 th , 2025	Release Request for Proposals.
Thursday, September 4 th , 2025 10am -11am	Mandatory Bidder's Meeting via Zoom RSVP to Join: Register here .
Friday, October 10 th , 2025	Applications due to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation via electronic submission in Foundant by 11:59pm. Please reference <i>Start Application</i> section for links to apply.
Monday, October 13 th , 2025 – Thursday, December 4 th , 2025	Internal review of submitted applications and application consultations with prospective finalists.
Thursday, December 11 th , 2025	Program Committee reviews staff recommendations.
Tuesday, December 16 th , 2025	Board of Directors approve applicant(s) at the March Board Meeting.
January 1 st , 2026	Contract begins.
December 31 st , 2027	Contract ends.

Desert Healthcare District and Foundation staff will be available for technical assistance and questions at info@dhcd.org. The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation reserves the sole right to determine the timing and content of the responses to all questions and requests for additional information.

Questions and information requests can be submitted to:

Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Staff
E-mail: info@dhcd.org

II. BACKGROUND

A. Desert Healthcare District and Foundation

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation (District and Foundation) includes more than 400,000 residents and encompasses the entire Coachella Valley. The mission and vision of the District and Foundation focus on the advancement of community wellness in the Coachella Valley:

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.

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation is guided by its 2021–2026 Strategic Plan, which outlines goals to improve community health through expanded access to primary and specialty care, behavioral and mental health services, economic stability, environmental health, and general health education. Through its grant program, the District and Foundation invests in efforts led by local nonprofits, health service providers, and public agencies that align with this mission and strategic vision. As part of its ongoing commitment to improving mental and behavioral health access across the Coachella Valley, the District and Foundation is releasing this Request for Proposals (RFP) to support programs focused on advancing mental and behavioral health support to youth, aged 0-24, and their families.

B. Strategic Focus: Advancing Mental Health for Youth and Families

In July 2024, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation concluded a two-year, \$1.7 million Request for Proposals focused on improving access to behavioral health education and prevention services for children ages 0–18 and their families. This initiative supported five community-based organizations in advancing early intervention, prevention, and awareness efforts across the Coachella Valley. To reflect on the impact of the RFP and learn from the funded programs, the District and Foundation convened a Lunch and Learn in December 2024 with all five grantees. The session provided a space to explore program outcomes, highlight promising practices, and identify ongoing barriers to care. Insights gathered during this dialogue directly informed the planning of the District and Foundation's 2025 Empowering Resilient Youth Data Walk.

In June 2025, the District and Foundation hosted the Empowering Resilient Youth Data Walk, an interactive event designed to build on lessons from the concluded behavioral health RFP and explore current youth behavioral health trends. The event brought together 62 participants from over 40 organizations representing education, healthcare, youth services, and community-based nonprofits. Participants reviewed regional, county, and state data, contributed reflections through facilitated activities, and collaborated to surface service gaps, elevate lived experiences, and identify priorities and opportunities for future

action. The event fostered cross-sector collaboration and reinforced the importance of centering community voices in the District and Foundation's planning efforts. Together, the insights from the concluded RFP and the Data Walk shaped the District and Foundation's new RFP focused on supporting the mental and behavioral health of youth (ages 0–24) and their families. This funding opportunity aligns with the District and Foundation's 2021–2026 Strategic Plan, specifically, Goal 3: Improve Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services, and reflects the District and Foundation's continued commitment to responsive, community-informed grantmaking.

Central to this goal is a focus on strengthening systems of care that promote resilience, reduce disparities, and support the long-term mental and behavioral well-being of youth and families across the Coachella Valley. By prioritizing investments in prevention, early intervention, and culturally responsive services, the District and Foundation aims to address urgent needs and help build a healthier future for the region's residents.

III. PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

This Request for Proposals represents the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's continued commitment to advancing behavioral health for youth and families across the Coachella Valley. Grounded in insights from the District and Foundation's previous behavioral health RFP and the 2025 Empowering Resilient Youth Data Walk, this funding opportunity is designed to address the persistent and emerging mental and behavioral health challenges facing youth (ages 0–24) and their families. Specifically, the District and Foundation is seeking proposals that strengthen the delivery of mental and behavioral health education, improve access to timely and culturally responsive care, and enhance follow-up and continuity of care to support long-term mental and behavioral health stability. For clarity, the District and Foundation defines the following terms as:

- **Case management:** A collaborative, patient-centered process where trained professionals guide clients through assessment, planning, coordination, and ongoing support, ensuring they access the right services across multiple systems to meet their behavioral and mental health needs.
- **Certifications:** Official recognitions awarded to individuals who have successfully completed a specific training or course, demonstrating competency in a particular skill or subject (e.g., Mental Health First Aid, CPR).
- **Completed follow-ups:** The number of times staff or providers successfully reconnected with clients after initial contact to check progress, provide ongoing support, or ensure continued care.
- **Crisis plan:** A structured, individualized plan that identifies early warning signs, coping strategies, support contacts, and clinical interventions to guide timely and effective response during a mental or behavioral health crisis.
- **Interns/associates/students:** Individuals in training or early stages of their careers (e.g., college students, social work interns, associate therapists) who participate in supervised professional experiences as part of their education or licensure process.

- **Long-term care:** Ongoing support and services provided over an extended period (e.g., therapy, counseling, etc.) for individuals with persistent mental or behavioral health needs.
- **Mental and behavioral health stability:** A state in which an individual experiences consistent emotional regulation, manages symptoms effectively, and functions in daily life with minimal crisis or disruption.
- **Peer-to-peer:** Support or services provided by individuals with shared experiences, such as someone with lived experience of mental health or substance use challenges helping others in similar situations.
- **Referrals completed:** The number of referred individuals who successfully connected with and received services from the referred agency or program.
- **Referrals made:** The number of individuals directed to another organization, provider, or program for specific services or support outside the referring agency's scope.
- **Support groups:** Structured gatherings where individuals with shared experiences (e.g., grief, addiction, parenting) meet regularly to offer mutual support, guidance, and encouragement.
- **Wellness checks:** Proactive assessments (by phone, in-person, or virtually) to check on an individual's mental or emotional well-being, often used to ensure safety or maintain engagement.
- **Youth:** Refers to individuals from birth through age 24, including children, adolescents, and transitional-aged young adults.

The District and Foundation supports the utilization of subcontractors to fulfill components of proposed projects. If applying with subcontractors, a Memorandum of Understanding and an aligned budget are required.

IV. ELIGIBILITY

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation is accepting applications from qualified organizations. To be eligible for this funding opportunity, applicants must:

- Be a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit and tax-exempt organization, a governmental, tribal, or public entity, including, healthcare service providers such as federally qualified health centers, and local clinics.
- Directly serve Coachella Valley residents living within the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's boundaries.
- Have current audited financial statements.
- Attend the mandatory Bidder's Meeting on **Thursday, September 4, 2025, from 10:00am - 11:00am via Zoom.**
- Support one or more of the strategies identified in the Results-Based Accountability Strategy Map (Section V)
- Submit an application with a project budget not to exceed \$250,000 over a two-year grant term.

Preference will be given to organizations that demonstrate a collaborative approach to accomplishing one or more of the stated project strategies listed in Section V.

V. RESULTS-BASED ACCOUNTABILITY STRATEGY MAP

Organizations applying for the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's request for proposals are required to support one or more of the strategies listed below. You will only be required to report on the performance measures that align with your project. Performance measures are included in the Strategy Map; however, this list is not comprehensive. Additional relevant data points that your project may be able to obtain could also be considered as "other."

When reviewing the Strategy Map, please refer to the definitions above.

Goal:
All Coachella Valley youth and families are mentally well, resilient, and connected to the support they need to thrive.
Result:
Increase the number of youth and families who are equipped with knowledge, access, and ongoing support needed to manage their mental health, leading to greater emotional stability, reduced crises, and stronger long-term well-being.
Target Population:
All Coachella Valley youth (ages 0-24) and families located within the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's boundaries.
Strategy 1: Strengthen the delivery of mental and behavioral health education
Building Organizational Capacity Performance Measures:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of certifications awarded to staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of unduplicated staff certified • # of workshops/trainings staff attended <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # staff that attended workshops/trainings ○ # of staff that reported increased behavioral and mental health literacy as a result of the workshops/trainings
Educational Sessions Performance Measures:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of certifications awarded to community members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of unduplicated community members certified • # of community workshops/trainings facilitated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of community members that attended workshops/trainings ○ # of community members that reported increased behavioral and mental health literacy as a result of the workshops/trainings • # of peer-to-peer groups facilitated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ # of individuals in peer-to-peer groups ○ # of individuals that reported increased behavioral and mental health literacy as a result of the peer-to-peer groups

System Navigation and Support Services Performance Measures:

- # of healthcare system navigation/case management sessions conducted
 - # of unduplicated individuals served
 - # of referrals made
 - # of referrals completed

Other Performance Measures:

- _____

Strategy 2: Improve access to mental and behavioral health services**Workforce Capacity Performance Measures:**

- # of licensed professionals allocated to the project
- # of interns/associate/students allocated to the project

Service Delivery Performance Measures:

- # of behavioral and mental health screenings conducted
- # of telehealth visits
 - # of unduplicated individuals served via telehealth
- # of in-person visits
 - # of unduplicated individuals served in-person
- # of mobile clinic deployment days
- # of mobile clinic locations
- # of mobile clinic individual visits
 - # of unduplicated individuals served via mobile clinic
- # of individual counseling sessions conducted
 - # of unduplicated individuals served via counseling sessions
- # of support group sessions conducted
 - # of unduplicated individuals served via support groups

Other Performance Measures:

- _____

Strategy 3: Strengthen follow-up care to promote mental and behavioral health stability**Follow-up and Continuing Care Performance Measures:**

- # of unduplicated individuals contacted for follow up care within 30 days of discharge
- # of attempted follow-ups
- # of completed follow-ups
- # of new crisis plans created
- # of existing crisis plans updated
- # of crisis plans followed during a crisis
- # of new medication plans created
- # of existing medication plans updated
- # of unduplicated individuals that maintain 90-day treatment adherence
- # of wellness checks conducted

- # of unduplicated individuals that received wellness checks
- # of unduplicated individuals that reported increased mental and behavioral health stability

System Coordination Performance Measures:

- # of individuals assigned to long-term care services, case management, or supportive services
 - # of referrals received
 - # of referrals made
 - # of referrals completed

Other Performance Measures:

- _____

VI. APPLICATION SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The link to submit a grant application can be found on the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's website under the *Request for Proposals* tab on the side Menu:

<https://dhcd.org/Request-for-Proposals>. All applicants submit applications in an online grant portal. To access the application, organizations must have an active account with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's grant portal, Foundant.

- If your organization already has an account, please click the link in Section IX to submit an application for this request for proposals.
- If your organization already has an account, but needs a password reset, please select the "Forgot your Password" button following the link in Section IX.
- If your organization does not have an account, you can create one by clicking on the link in Section IX and select the "Create New Account" button.

In order to submit a complete application in Foundant, all organizations are required to include the following supportive documentation:

- 501(c)3 determination letter
- Project budget using the DHCD [budget template](#)
- Most recent Fiscal Year End Financial Statements that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant (CPA). Submitted audited financials must cover a time period within the last 18 months.
- Most Recent Year-To-Date Financial Statement that includes a Profit and Loss Statement (P&L) and Balance Sheet covering a time period within the last three months.
- Current Organizational FY budget
- Minutes from Board Meeting when Audited Financials were approved
- Current Strategic Plan
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) if applicable
- List of Board of Directors and Terms

The total funding available for this request for proposals is \$1,000,000. The awarded applicants will have budgets that do not exceed a maximum amount of \$250,000 over two years. The project contract will be for two years, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2027. This is a competitive process, which means not all qualifying proposals will be funded.

VII. REPORTING GUIDELINES

The Desert Healthcare District and Foundation utilizes Foundant for progress and final report submissions during the grant contract term. For the two-year grant term, selected applicants will be required to submit progress reports every six months and a final report at the end of the project. Progress reports include narrative highlighting progress towards achieving deliverables, challenges faced during the project, success stories, etc. and metrics as they relate to the identified results-based accountability performance measure numbers (as noted in Section V). Additionally, for the financial aspect of the project, the District and Foundation requires submission of a budget report, payroll documentation, invoices and proof of payment, receipts, and other supporting expense documentation during each progress report period. Final reports include narrative questions about the entirety of the project. Additional details, timelines, and instructions will be provided in the grant contract and during post award meetings.

VIII. PROPOSAL SELECTION PROCESS

Grants awarded through this request for proposal process will focus on advancing mental and behavioral health support for youth and families across the Coachella Valley. To apply for a grant, organizations must submit an application online by 11:59pm on October 10, 2025, using Foundant, Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's grant portal. Organizations are limited to submitting one application. Detailed steps to the proposal selection process are as follows:

1. Submit an application with all required documents to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation by 11:59pm on October 10, 2025. Applications are submitted online using Foundant.
2. Applications and documents will be reviewed by the grants team starting on October 13th, 2025 – December 4th, 2025. As part of our review process, applicants that meet requirements and eligibility may be invited to a Application Consultation to address follow-up questions and make any necessary modifications to their final application.
3. Applications are then presented to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's Program Committee for discussion and recommendations on December 11, 2025, at 3:00pm.
 - a. Applicants being recommended for funding to the Program Committee will be sent an email inviting them to join the meeting, via in person or Zoom.
4. The applications will then be presented to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation's Board of Directors who will review and vote on the approval of applicants on December 16, 2025, at 4:00pm.

- a. Applicants being recommended for funding to the Board of Directors
Meetings will be sent an email inviting them to join the meeting in person or via Zoom.
5. All applicants will be notified of their advancement. If approved for funding, selected applicants will be notified of the award and sent out a contract for signature. The contract will begin January 1, 2026, and end December 31, 2027.

IX. START APPLICATION

If you are new to applying to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, click here to create an account: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhcd>

If your organization already has an account with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, but needs a password reset, please select the “Forgot your Password” button from the following link: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhcd>

If you already have a grant portal account with the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, click here to apply: <https://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=dhcd>

Do not submit your application until you have attended the mandatory bidder’s meeting on **September 4, 2025 from 10:00am – 11:00am**. Click [here](#) to register for the bidder’s meeting. Should you have any questions regarding this Request for Proposals or need technical assistance with the District and Foundation’s grant portal, please email info@dhcd.org.