The Desert Healthcare District, established by voters in 1948, is a local government agency comprised of five cities and surrounding unincorporated areas in the West Coachella Valley. Led by a five-member Board of Directors for the first 50 years, the District built and operated its own hospital on behalf of residents, now known as the Desert Regional Medical Center.

In 1993, after Desert residents voted to lease it to the for-profit Tenet Healthcare Inc., the hospital’s 501(C)3 Foundation was transferred to the Healthcare District organization to ensure its assets would continue to be dedicated for public benefit.

Today, the Desert Healthcare Foundation works in consultation and collaboration with community partners to develop, fund and implement important health and wellness initiatives, programs and services designed to improve access and the overall health status of residents.

The District and its affiliated nonprofit Desert Healthcare Foundation, together, are one of the largest funders in the Coachella Valley, granting roughly $4 million annually to nonprofit, community-based and provider organizations. These funds are used to assist residents — especially the underserved — in accessing vital needed resources, such as primary and behavioral healthcare, housing, food, and transportation resources. Since 1998, the District has invested more than $70 million in initiatives, grants and programs serving and benefitting the residents.

In partnership with the Board of Directors, the CEO will lead the transformation of the District to achieve the agency’s mission, vision and strategic priorities.

Looking Ahead

The Desert Healthcare District/Foundation is a strong voice for Coachella Valley’s healthcare district. What more can the future promise? Take part in learning more about the plan’s implementation by visiting www.dhcd.org/strategicplan.

Our Mission

“To achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all Desert residents.”

Our Organizational Vision

“Connecting Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness services and programs through resources and philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.”

“This year promises to be one of continuing transformation and expansion as Desert Healthcare District/Foundation begins to implement our new Vision and first-ever health-focused, comprehensive, and over-arching three-year Strategic Plan.”

Board President

Les Zendle, MD

2018

We understand the importance of community voices. Conveying and facilitating dialogue for residents, community-based organizations, service providers and other stakeholders to help address significant community health matters is an integral part of our mission and what drives our strategy.

Desert Healthcare District

1410 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262

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We invite you to join us at our monthly meetings and visit our website to keep informed about current projects.

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Strategic Priorities, the Roadmap to Advancing a One Coachella Valley Health and Wellness Perspective

With a focus on the greater social determinants of health (e.g., housing and homelessness, transportation, education) and not solely healthcare, the Strategic Plan outlines three key priorities, which will advance a One Coachella Valley perspective where the District will include the entire Valley as opposed to the west Valley-based District territory. It is a strategic approach to transforming the role, reach, and impact of the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation.

New Providers, Facilities and Services
Enhance delivery system capacity and commit stable, high-quality health services that respond to community needs

One Coachella Valley
Strengthen community health outcomes by implementing a District framework that enhances and broadens community funding, considers the health needs of all residents, and effectively engages residents in the entire Coachella Valley.

Focus Areas
To advance our impact on community health, the District/Foundation identified four Community Health Focus Areas, which will serve as the basis for new initiatives, funding, and other investments over the next three years. Based on the critical community health needs and targeted strategies, the District/Foundation will address each Focus Area through the Strategic Plan Priorities.