

Memo

To: Board Members
From: Amy Abrams
Date: October 6, 2025
Subject: Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee Minutes – **October 2, 2025**

The Committee met for a special meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. Members of the public were able to participate by telephone, Zoom, or in-person at the Grossmont Healthcare District Conference Center, located at 9001 Wakarusa Street, La Mesa, California. In some cases, discussion of items may have taken place out of sequence during the meeting.

Attendees: Director Maggie Watkins, Chair
Director Nadia Farjood, Member
Amy Abrams, Chief Community Health Officer
Ari Rojas, Community Health Program Specialist
Nathan Burns, Guest (via Zoom)

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Director Farjood at 12:08 p.m.
- B. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as posted.

Director Farjood approved the agenda with an amendment to table item 4 on Sponsorship Requests to October 24th, per a request by Director Watkins.

C. Public Comment:

Nathan Burns with The LGBT Community Center attended the meeting via Zoom for an update on their grant proposal. The Committee asked him to provide data tracking information showing how many clients from Grossmont Healthcare District are served through their behavioral health programs.

D. Guest Presentations: There were none.

E. Reports/Discussion/Possible Action Items

1. FY25-26 Monthly Grant and Sponsorship Tracking Report

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

2. Staff Rubric Scoring Review

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

3. Grants

The Committee reviewed and scored multiple grant applications using a standardized rubric and assigning ratings of A, B, C, or X based on various criteria by each Committee member. They focused on the “A” applications as priority and made decisions on those first. The Committee discussed the grants in order of their assigned score based on the rubric by staff. Director Watkins, Director Farjood and Ari Rojas, Community Health Program Specialist compared their individual ratings, discussing discrepancies and justifications for different scores. The Committee discussed specific proposals in depth, noting that some received high scores due to unique programs or addressing underserved populations. They also considered the impact of the requested funding amounts and the organizations’ ability to meet their goals. They emphasized the importance of supporting innovative projects that fill gaps in services, particularly those benefiting youth and seniors in East County. They agreed to reserve judgement on funding amounts for some applications. They highlighted organizations they agreed might be considered for workforce or strategic initiative funding for referral to the Finance Committee. The Committee also noted that their ratings were influenced by a rubric and emphasized the importance of having a transparent explanation for any significant rating differences when presenting their final decisions.

The Committee discussed the following action items:

- CCHO Abrams to follow up with McAlister Institute to confirm what the consultant fees in their budget are specifically for.
- Director Watkins to attend the San Diego Mission event to gather more information about their Lighthouse facility plans.

- Staff to ask the Institute for Reproductive Grief Care about the \$17,000 travel expense in their budget that seems inconsistent with the project description.
- The LGBT Community Center to provide data tracking information showing how many clients from Grossmont Healthcare District are served through their behavioral health programs.
- Committee to revisit the grants policy regarding scoring disadvantages for previously funded organizations.
- Staff to consider adding a budget narrative field to future grant applications to allow for explanation of expenses.
- Committee to consider for next year establishing specific funding categories with predetermined allocations before receiving applications.
- Committee to prepare rationale for funding decisions to present to the full Board.

a) Grant Requests*

Recommended for Funding: The Committee reviewed and discussed the following requests and tentative recommendations for the Board in the amounts indicated, based on each program’s assistance in addressing the unmet healthcare needs of District residences, including an identified prioritized health need, a direct patient care benefit, and/or a strong healthcare nexus. Recommended amounts are subject to change as the Committee continues its deliberations. *(Prior year’s funding by the District is shown in parentheses.)*

i. New Requests **(totaling \$8,713,285.97)**

(Listed in chronological order, oldest to newest)

- (a) East County Transitional Living Center (ECTLC): East County Crisis Checkpoint for Continuum of Care - \$500,000 (FY23-24 \$12,500 Sponsorship; FY21-22 \$35,000 Grant) **Committee Recommendation: \$235,000**
- (b) Eric Paredes Save A Life Foundation: Screen Your Teen - \$13,200 (FY24-25 \$13,200)
- (c) Vista Hill Foundation: Vista Hill ParentCare Dual Diagnosis - \$30,000 (FY24-25 \$30,000)

- (d) SD Imperial Counties Developmental Services Foundation aka Foundation for Developmental Disabilities: Expanding FDD's Emergency Help Fund Program Supporting San Diego Regional Center Clients and Their Families - \$25,000 (No prior funding)
- (e) Boys & Girls Club of East County: BGCEC Youth Meal Program - \$50,000 (FY24-25 \$2,500 Sponsorship; FY20-21 \$10,000 Grant)
- (f) License to Freedom: Roots of Resilience - \$139,800 (FY24-25 \$19,290)
- (g) St. Madeleine Sophie's Training Center: SMSC Healthcare Students Volunteer Program - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (h) DAP Health, Inc.: DAP Health Centro Medico El Cajon X-ray Equipment and DR Software Upgrade - \$94,899 (FY24-25 \$16,750)
Committee Recommendation: \$94,899
- (i) San Diego Rescue Mission: East County Homeless Outreach & Collaboration - \$350,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000) **Committee Recommendation: \$175,000**
- (j) YMCA of SD County / East County Family YMCAs: LIVESTRONG at the YMCA Cancer Survivor Program - East County - \$17,453 (FY24-25 \$17,500)
- (k) Neighborhood Healthcare: Neighborhood Lakeside Health Center Expansion - \$450,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$400,000**
- (l) Trauma Intervention Programs of SD County Inc. : Crisis Intervention - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$20,000)
- (m) Southern Regional Resource Center, Inc.: Improving GHD Family Caregivers' Wellbeing Through Respite Care - \$337,864 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$337,864**
- (n) Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego: Enhancing Pediatric Cardiac Care Through Resilience-Building Interventions - \$25,000 (No prior funding)

- (o) San Diego Hunger Coalition: Addressing Food Insecurity for GHD’s Most Vulnerable Residents - \$20,000 (No prior funding)
- (p) East County Economic Development Council Foundation: Grossmont Healthcare District Career Pathways Initiative - \$150,000 (FY22-23 \$105,000)
- (q) SDSU Research Foundation dba Center for Excellence in Aging & Longevity (CEAL): Strengthening Aging Supports in East County Through Caregiver Training, Peer Networks, and Community Connection - \$144,473 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (r) Saddles In Service: Healing for Frontline Nurses and Medical Staff - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000 Grant; FY24-25 \$5,000 Sponsorship)
- (s) Volunteers in Medicine - San Diego Inc.: Free Medical Clinic for the Uninsured – Expanded Services - \$250,000 (FY24-25 \$150,000)
Committee Recommendation: \$200,000
- (t) Empowered Endings Foundation: Compassionate Navigation and Conversations: Supporting Seniors and Families in East County for Life at End of Life - \$75,000 (No prior funding)
- (u) Crisis House: Pathway to Home: Senior Support Initiative - \$50,000 (FY23-24 \$8,000 Grant; FY23-24 \$8,599 Sponsorship)
- (v) Autism Society San Diego: Expanding Autism Support Services in East County - \$250,000 (FY24-25 \$5,000 Sponsorship) **Committee Recommendation: \$250,000**
- (w) Heaven’s Windows: Child Nutrition Program - \$25,000 (No prior funding)
- (x) Alzheimer’s San Diego: Support for GHD Residents Impacted by Dementia - \$34,236 (FY24-25 \$23,000)
- (y) Home of Guiding Hands Corporation: Nursing Expansion for IDD Residents of Grossmont Healthcare District - \$225,000 (FY23-24 \$69,000; FY23-24 \$5,000 Sponsorship) **Committee Recommendation: \$225,000**

- (z) Arms Wide Open: Performing Arts Classes for People with Disabilities - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (aa) Covenant Living at Mount Miguel dba Covenant Living of the West: Enhancing Transportation Access for Seniors at Covenant Living at Mount Miguel - \$15,000 (FY24-25 \$15,000)
- (bb) Oncology And Kids, Inc.: Resident Oncology Camp - \$25,000 (FY22-23 \$20,000)
- (cc) University of San Diego: Grossmont Healthcare District Behavioral Health Scholarship Fund - \$75,000 (No prior funding)
- (dd) McAlister Institute for Treatment & Education Inc.: Integrated Recovery Health Project: Expanding Medical and Psychiatric Support for SUD Treatment in East County - \$223,820 (FY23-24 \$13,100) **Committee Recommendation: \$216,320**
- (ee) Family Health Centers of San Diego, Inc.: FHCS Older Adult Services - \$40,000 (FY23-24 \$2,500 Sponsorship; FY21-22 \$70,939 Grant)
- (ff) Grossmont Hospital Foundation: New Oncology Social Worker Position for Sharp Grossmont's Healing Minds Cancer Connection Program - \$140,400 (FY24-25 \$60,000 Sponsorship)
- (gg) Survivors of Torture, International: Health Education and Literary (HEAL) Program - \$75,000 (FY24-25 \$19,290)
- (hh) Center for Community Solutions: TRIUMPH (Trauma Recovery Integration Using Multiple Pathways to Healing) - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (ii) Developmental Services Continuum, Inc.: DSC's Music Therapy Program - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (jj) Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank: San Diego Food Bank's Fresh Produce for East County Program - \$75,000 (FY23-24 \$18,000)
- (kk) Serving Seniors: Serving Seniors East County Nutrition & Aging Care Support Program - \$78,837 (FY24-25 \$30,000)

- (ll) Noah Homes, Inc.: Noah Homes IT Infrastructure Upgrades for Essential Medical Services and Compliance - \$200,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (mm) Community, Action, Service and Advocacy (CASA): Bringing Shared Housing to East County to Help Prevent Homelessness - \$25,000 (No prior funding)
- (nn) N.A.T.I.V.E. Placements: Project Hope - \$50,000 (No prior funding)
- (oo) Institute for Public Strategies: Meet ME (Mountain Empire) Outdoors - \$149,966 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$149,966**
- (pp) Institute of Reproductive Grief Care: Reproductive Grief Education for Grossmont College Nursing Program - \$44,000 (FY24-25 \$2,500 Sponsorship) **Committee Recommendation: \$25,000**
- (qq) San Diego Seniors Community Foundation: East County Longevity Hub - \$350,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$350,000**
- (rr) The Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges: Advancing Cardiac Care Instruction in East County - \$75,000 (No prior funding)
- (ss) Bliss Care Foundation, Inc.: Blissful Care Expansion - \$94,800 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$94,800**
- (tt) Heartland Regional Fire Training Foundation: Heartland Fire Training EMS Pathway and Community Training Program - \$25,000 (No prior funding)
- (uu) Impact Melanoma: San Diego County Skin Cancer Prevention GHD - \$122,407 (FY24-25 \$19,237) **Committee Recommendation: \$80,000**
- (vv) Feeding San Diego: Food is Medicine – Rural Initiative Food Distributions - \$75,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (ww) Voices for Children: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program Training Initiative - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000 Grant; FY24-25 \$10,000 Sponsorship)

- (xx) Centro de Salud de la Comunidad de San Ysidro, Inc.: Food is Medicine Rural Initiative - \$258,930.69 (FY24-25 \$64,083 Grant; FY24-25 \$5,000 Sponsorship)
- (yy) The San Diego LGBT Community Center: Advancing Health Equity for the LGBTQ+ Community through The Center’s Behavioral Health Services - \$50,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$50,000**
- (zz) San Diego Youth Services: Mental Health for Vulnerable Youth - \$112,000 (FY23-24 \$24,999 Grant; FY23-24 \$2,500 Sponsorship)
- (aaa) Meals-on-Wheels Greater San Diego, Inc.: Strengthening East County Senior Health: Meals and Innovation Hub Support - \$200,000 (FY23-24 \$30,000; FY23-24 \$5,000 Sponsorship)
- (bbb) Connections for Adults Living Independently, Inc.: Connecting Individuals to Supported Living Services: A Multipronged Media and Outreach Approach - \$25,000 (No prior funding)
- (ccc) San Diego Center for the Blind: The Nourish Project - \$25,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$25,000**
- (ddd) Majdal: Arab Community Center of San Diego, fiscally sponsored project of Mission Edge San Diego: Supporting Holistic MENA Refugee & Immigrant Mental Health - \$91,195 (FY23-24 \$11,440) **Committee Recommendation: \$91,195**
- (eee) San Diego Blood Bank: East County Donor Center (ECDC) Support - \$90,000 (FY24-25 \$19,290)
- (fff) Jewish Family Services of San Diego: Continuum of Nutrition Support for Seniors - \$40,000 (FY24-25 \$40,000)
- (ggg) Mama’s Kitchen: Medically Tailored Meal Service – East County - \$70,000 (FY24-25 \$30,000)
- (hhh) Resounding Joy, Inc.: Sounds of Legacy: Addressing Social Isolation Through Music Therapy for Seniors - \$25,000 (No prior funding)

- (iii) Home Start, Inc.: Expanded Specialized Behavioral Health Services for GHD Child Victims of Trauma, Abuse, & Crime - \$88,552 (FY24-25 \$38,500) **Committee Recommendation: \$75,000**
- (jjj) The Salvation Army: East County Salvation Army Senior Nutrition Program - \$74,775 (FY24-25 \$7,000)
- (kkk) The New Children’s Museum: Ground & Grow: Trauma – Informal Ceramics for Youth - \$55,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$50,000**
- (lll) San Diego County Medical Society Foundation dba Champions for Health: In-home Wellness for Older Adults & Homebound Individuals - \$30,000 (FY24-25 \$30,000) **Committee Recommendation: \$30,000**
- (mmm) Christie’s Place: Christie’s Place Mental Health Services for Youth and Families Living with HIV - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$5,000 Grant; FY24-25 \$2,500 Sponsorship)
- (nnn) San Diego Oasis: Wellness Plus – Comprehensive Health Education for Older Adults at San Diego Oasis’ La Mesa Center - \$65,000 (No prior funding)
- (ooo) ElderHelp of San Diego: ElderHelp Care Coordination & Transportation Program - \$65,000 (FY24-25 \$50,000 Grant; FY24-25 \$10,000 Sponsorship) **Committee Recommendation: \$50,000**
- (ppp) American Pacific Health Foundation: Cognitive Assessment and Risk Education (CARE) Project - \$25,000 (No prior funding)
- (qqq) Therapy Center Inc. dba Challenger Center: Empowering Independence and Dignity in Aging - \$50,000 (FY23-24 \$18,750)
- (rrr) So Say We All: Humanizing Healthcare Through Lived Storytelling - \$23,500 (No prior funding)
- (sss) Boys to Men Mentoring Network: Boys to Men Mentoring RECLAIM Project (Restorative Engagement for Community Leadership and Intervention Among Men - \$25,000 (No prior funding)

- (ttt) We Support U: Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (PrTMS) for Treatment of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury mTBI (aka Concussion) - \$750,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$250,000**

- (uuu) Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.: Grossmont Healthcare District Health Access Project - \$65,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$65,000**

- (vvv) Walk San Diego dba Circulate San Diego: East County Vision Zero Report Update and Community Engagement - \$48,250 (No prior funding)

- (www) FundaMental Health: Bridging the Mental Healthcare Gap in the Grossmont Healthcare District - \$25,000 (No prior funding)

- (xxx) ArtReach: Addressing Behavioral Health & Social Isolation Through Visual Art Workshops with IRC's Women's Resiliency Center and Newcomer Youth Program - \$25,000 (FY24-25 \$14,000)

- (yyy) Braille Institute of America, Inc. San Diego Low Vision Rehabilitation - \$25,000 (No prior funding)

- (zzz) Burn Institute: Burn Institute Fire Prevention and Burn Survivor Services for Grossmont Health District Residents - \$68,000 (FY23-24 \$34,000)

- (aaaa) African American Writers & Artists: Seasons of Health & Wellness: Community Engagement Initiative - \$25,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$25,000**

- (bbbb) For Their Thoughts Foundation Inc.: Expanding Dementia Health Literacy in Schools and Strengthening the Neuro-Healthcare Pipeline in East County - \$46,100 (FY24-25 \$2,500 Sponsorship)

- (cccc) Vision y Compromiso: Me Veo Bien, Me Siento Bien/I Look Good, I Feel Good, a chronic disease management program - \$80,000 (No prior funding)

- (dddd) Newcomers Support and Development: In Arabic Medical Podcast - \$25,000 (No prior funding)

- (eeee) Community Eldercare of San Diego dba St. Paul's PACE: St. Paul's PACE Nemeth Transportation Program - \$336,000 (FY24-25 \$12,858)
- (ffff) The Foundation for Care Integration: Hospital to Home Transportation Program - \$100,000 (No prior funding)
- (gggg) Tremble Clefs San Diego, Inc.: Together, We Grow! - \$176,829 (No prior funding)

4. Sponsorships

No sponsorship applications were recommended during this meeting, but will be discussed at the October 24th meeting

a) Sponsorship Requests* **(totaling \$212,650)**

i. New Requests

(Listed in chronological order, oldest to newest)

- (a) Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank: San Diego Food Bank Gala - \$10,000 (FY23-24 \$18,000 Grant) (Event Date: 04-18-26)
- (b) Autism Society San Diego Inc.: Autism Social and Mental Health Conference: Caring. Connection. Community. - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$5,000) (Event Date: 02-20-26)
- (c) Boys & Girls Club of East County, Inc.: BGCEC's 4th Annual Community Health Fair - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$2,500) (Event Date: Spring 2026)
- (d) ElderHelp of San Diego: ElderHelp's Essence of Life Awards and Charity Auction - \$15,000 (FY24-25 \$10,000) (Event Date: 03-16-26)
- (e) Southern Regional Resource Center, Inc.: Aging and Caregiving Awareness Campaign: Exhibits & Community-Based Conference - \$70,000 (No prior funding) (Event Date: N/A)
- (f) Transcendence Youth Arts Project: CREATE Performance 2026 - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$5,000) (Event Date: 04-03-26)

- (g) NAMI San Diego: NAMIWalks San Diego - \$5,650 (FY21-22 \$2,800) (Event Date: 04-25-26)
- (h) Institute of Reproductive Grief Care: The Next Frontier: Where Innovation Meets Compassion - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$2,500) (Event Date: 03-27-26)
- (i) Christie’s Place: “A Woman’s Voice” Annual San Diego HIV Women’s Conference - \$7,500 (FY24-25 \$2,500) (Event Date: 03-07-26)
- (j) American Lung Association in California: LUNG FORCE Walk - \$10,000 (FY23-24 \$20,000 Grant) (Event Date: TBD)
- (k) Center for Community Solutions: Grossmont Healthy Relationships Day - \$14,500 (FY24-25 \$25,000 Grant) (Event Date: 03-12-26)
- (l) San Diego Black Business Network: HealWellFest - \$20,000 (No prior funding) (Event Date: TBD)
- (m) Thrive Lemon Grove: Lemon Grove Farmers Market - \$10,000 (No prior funding) (Event Date: 10-02-25)
- (n) For Their Thoughts Foundation: Move For Their Thoughts (MoveFTT) 35 Day Mile-a-Day Challenge - \$10,000 (FY24-25 \$2,500) (Event Date: 04-26-26)

5. Scholarships

a) FY25-26 Draft Scholarship Policy – Further Redline Changes

i. High School

- (a) FY25-26 High School Healthcare Scholarship: Update regarding Potential Additional Schools

(This agenda item was not discussed.)

F. General Information/Communications

The Committee agreed to schedule a follow-up meeting on October 7th from 12:00-1:00 p.m. during which time they plan to finalize grant decisions and potentially address sponsorships if time permits. CCHO Abrams will email a SharePoint file with

the current grant decisions to Director Watkins and Director Farjood for their review prior to the next meeting.

G. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting – A special meeting has been scheduled and is on the calendar for Friday, October 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. (The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.)

H. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.