

# Memo

**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Amy Abrams  
**Date:** October 14, 2025  
**Subject:** Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee Minutes – **October 10, 2025**

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The Committee met for a special meeting on Friday, October 10, 2025, at 3:00 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  
Dr. Julie Hayden, Guest

**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Director Farjood at 3:00 p.m.

**B. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as posted. CCHO Abrams recommended moving the draft Scholarship Policy to the top of the agenda for Committee review and approval so it may be placed on the October 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting agenda.

**C. Public Comment:**

Dr. Julie Hayden presented East County Transitional Living Center’s efficient homeless services model to the Committee. The organization seeks \$500,000 in funding to serve people through crisis services, mental health therapy and housing stability.

**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

a) Grant Requests\*

The Committee discussed funding decisions for various grant proposals, flagging some for potential funding reductions to allow for supporting more organizations. The Committee reviewed various proposals and rankings, with Director Watkins emphasizing that the rubric should be viewed as a tool rather than the sole determinant of decisions. The Committee highlighted the need to address behavioral health services, and substance abuse, which were identified as top community health needs. They also discussed the importance of youth mental health initiatives. The Committee also focused on organizations supporting mothers, children, and refugee communities. They agreed to reduce funding for several programs, while deciding to maintain or increase funding for other programs.

- CCHO Abrams to send an updated grants spreadsheet to the Committee after the October 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee regarding consideration of some grants as workforce development initiatives
- Committee to determine strategy for Heartland Regional Fire Training Foundation, Jewish Family Services, and The Salvation Army grant applications at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Committee to finalize grant and sponsorship decisions at the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Committee to inform the Board about the two organizations that require recusals

**Recommended for Funding:** The Committee reviewed and discussed the following requests and recommends to the Board 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. *(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) **Committee Recommendation: \$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) **Committee Recommendation: \$35,000**
- (f) License to Freedom: Roots of Resilience - \$139,800 (FY24-25 \$19,290) **Committee Recommendation: \$88,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$17,453**

- (k) Neighborhood Healthcare: Neighborhood Lakeside Health Center Expansion - \$450,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$350,000**
- (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: \$250,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$25,000**
- (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: \$200,000**
- (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.: FHCSO Older Adult Services - \$40,000 (FY23-24 \$2,500 Sponsorship; FY21-22 \$70,939 Grant) **Committee Recommendation: \$40,000**
- (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: \$250,000**
- (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: \$50,000**

- (tt) Heartland Regional Fire Training Foundation: Heartland Fire Training EMS Pathway and Community Training Program - \$25,000 (No prior funding) **Committee Recommendation: \$25,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$75,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$56,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$100,000**
- (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: \$25,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$25,000**
- (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: \$150,000**
- (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) **Committee Recommendation: \$50,000**
- (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 Clefts San Diego, Inc.: Together, We Grow! - \$176,829 (No prior funding)

#### 4. Sponsorships

No sponsorship applications were recommended during this meeting. They will be discussed at the October 24<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

CCHO Abrams presented the redlined Draft Scholarship Policy to the Committee with revisions that included the new essay prompts and the addition of Learning Choice Academy to the high school scholarship program. She explained the application window opens December 1<sup>st</sup>, so the policy needs to be approved so it can be put on the website. Randi Baker, Executive Assistant and Office Manager, can then start inviting the high school and the post-secondary applicants to start applying in December. The Committee **recommended** the FY25-26 Draft Scholarship Policy be brought before the full Board for review and approval.

i. High School

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

CCHO Abrams noted that three of the five high schools did not respond to our calls, one is not eligible, and that the Learning Choice Academy has been added to the high school scholarship program.

**F. General Information/Communications**

**G. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting** – A special meeting has been scheduled and is on 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 4:23 p.m.