

Memo

To: Board Members
From: Amy Abrams
Date: October 3, 2025
Subject: Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee Minutes – **October 1, 2025**

The Committee met on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 1:00 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)
Kaye Turpin, Guest (via Zoom)
Jack Dailey, Guest (via Zoom)
Janelle Wallace, Guest (via Zoom)
Nathan Burns, Guest (via Zoom)
Nicole Christiansen, Guest (via Zoom)

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Director Farjood at 1:09 p.m.

B. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as posted.

C. Public Comment:

The meeting began with brief introductions by Jack Dailey and Janelle Wallace with Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Nathan Burns and Nicole Christiansen with The San Diego LGBT Community Center, and Kaye Turpin with the San Diego Rescue Mission.

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 grant funding priorities and evaluation processes for grant applications, discussing thresholds and strategies for distributing both large and small grants. In an effort to develop some guidelines for evaluating applications, Director Watkins proposed that the Committee determine a threshold of everything below a certain point that will not be considered unless somebody feels strongly about it. She also asked if there are certain grants based on a philosophy that we would not consider funding, for example capital improvements, and lastly, if the applicant is only serving a certain portion of the District, how the math is being calculated. Director Farjood clarified there is no prohibition on equipment and capital improvements and we do cover them, and that the requirement is to provide services within the District so there are no penalties if it operates in only part of the District. CCHO Abrams explained that historically there has not been a consistent strategy for grant distribution including any kind of threshold or scoring rubric to evaluate proposals. In addition to the rubric scoring, the Committee agreed upon an A/B/C categorization of applications by each Committee member. They suggested focusing on the “A” applications as priority and making decisions on those first.

The Committee asked questions to the community partners who were attending the meeting via Zoom. Director Farjood inquired about the Rescue Mission’s proposal for a lighthouse facility in East County to Kaye Turpin. Ms. Turpin clarified the grant would support both outreach services and startup expenses for the project. Jack Daily of the Legal Aid Society explained their plans to provide East County-specific legal services and educational programming about healthcare and insurance coverage changes. The San Diego LGBT Community Center representative, Nathan Burns, discussed their behavioral health services and goals for serving Grossmont Healthcare District residents. All of these organizations expressed appreciation for the District’s transparent grant review process.

The Committee focused on identifying the grant applications aligned with strategic and workforce initiatives that could be referred to the Finance or Ad Hoc Workforce Committees for consideration. They would not be categorically excluded from a grant but are believed to be better funded by a different source. Since Director Ayres and Director Lenac are Members of both Committees, the proposals will be brought to the Finance Committee.

- Staff to refer the Walk San Diego DBA Circulate San Diego proposal to the Finance Committee with a recommendation to support it as a strategic initiative.
- Staff to refer the East County Economic Development Council Foundation proposal to the Finance Committee/Ad Hoc Workforce Committee with a recommendation to adjust funding amounts if necessary.
- Staff to refer the Heartland Fire’s regional fire training fund proposal to the Finance Committee/Ad Hoc Workforce for consideration.
- Staff to refer the University of San Diego Nursing Scholarship to the Finance Committee/Ad Hoc Workforce Committee for consideration.
- Staff to refer the For Their Thoughts Foundation proposal to the Finance Committee/Ad Hoc Workforce Committee for consideration.
- Staff to refer the Sharp Grossmont Hospital Foundation proposal to the Finance Committee without a recommendation due to Grant & Sponsorship Policy requirement that hospital support beyond the \$1m IGT must be recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by a 4/5 vote of the Board.

The Committee discussed the strategic initiatives budget of \$1.9 million, which includes healthcare workforce projects. They also discussed the timing of decisions by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee to review these proposals at their October 14th meeting, with a request for feedback by October 24th. If the Finance Committee does not fund the proposals, the Community Grants & Sponsorships Committee can go back and review the applications again before all of the recommendations will be brought forward to the full vote of the Board on November 2nd.

Director Watkins inquired about serving on the board of the Grossmont Hospital Foundation, and if she should recuse herself. Director Farjood stated she is on the board of Jewish Family Services and will be recusing herself from determining their

application. The Committee reviewed the grant policy that prohibits grant funding exceeding \$1 million to the Grossmont Hospital Foundation, requiring a four-fifths Board vote for additional funding from the District General Fund. They clarified that \$70,000 is budgeted specifically for hospital support from the general fund, separate from the grants budget, and these funds are subject to committee review.

The Committee discussed sponsorship requests totaling \$463,650, which CCHO Abrams will present with updated spreadsheets tomorrow. Director Farjood suggested the Committee begin with sponsorships at tomorrow's meeting since there are a finite number of applications and a remaining budget of \$117,000. The Committee can determine if there should be a budget adjustment request. Director Farjood noted that some of the outstanding sponsorships also have a grant request as well, so the Committee can consider whether to support a sponsorship in addition to a grant.

The Committee discussed sponsorship proposals for several events: a Healthy Relationships Day hosted by the Center for Community Solutions and a conference by Christie's Place. For the Healthy Relationships Day, the Committee questioned the \$14,500 sponsorship amount, noting that their involvement would primarily be providing venue space. CCHO Abrams stated the sponsorship would pay for equipment and furniture rental, food, and speaker fees. Regarding Christie's Place, the Committee recalled their previous \$7,500 sponsorship and noted they would be a presenting sponsor for \$12,000 this year, with the event successfully reaching a significant number of East County. Director Farjood mentioned receiving a proposal from Lemon Grove and expressed excitement about a Wellness Day collaboration with the San Diego Black Business Network. The Committee discussed the Southern Regional Resource Center's \$70,000 sponsorship request and will consider supporting the conference portion rather than the full year-long commitment.

CCHO Abrams discussed several nonprofits organizations seeking funding, including the Institute of Reproductive Grief Care, the Transcendence Youth Outreach Project, and For Your Thoughts Foundation. CCHO Abrams shared positive experiences working with these organizations, particularly praising the Institute of Reproductive Grief Care for their organization and promotion skills. The Committee to evaluate For Their Thoughts Foundation sponsorship after the current cycle if funds remain.

Director Farjood stated something she finds helpful when evaluating the applications is the amount requested, and then the number of residents served. There was one grant, the Bliss Care Foundation, which was ranked very highly and is in the aging category. It serves 10 people with a high cost per client of about \$9,480. The Committee noted there are many excellent aging programs proposals that would provide a lower level of

intensive care but would reach far more residents.

The Committee will reconvene at noon tomorrow to continue deliberations on sponsorship and grant requests. The following items will be addressed by staff for this meeting:

- Staff to update the spreadsheet with columns for Director Watkins and Director Farjood A/B/C rankings for tomorrow's meeting.
- Staff to create a new tab to track running totals during tomorrow's meeting.
- Ari Rojas, Community Health Programs Specialist, to provide her input on "A" priority grants, particularly for simplified grants.

a) Grant Requests*

No grant applications were recommended during this meeting and will be discussed further at the October 2nd meeting.

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)
- (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)
- (i) San Diego Rescue Mission: East County Homeless Outreach & Collaboration - \$350,000 (FY24-25 \$25,000)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (ee) Family Health Centers of San Diego, Inc.: FHCSO 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)

- (pp) Institute of Reproductive Grief Care: Reproductive Grief Education for Grossmont College Nursing Program - \$44,000 (FY24-25 \$2,500 Sponsorship)
- (qq) San Diego Seniors Community Foundation: East County Longevity Hub - \$350,000 (No prior funding)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (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)
- (uuu) Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc.: Grossmont Healthcare District Health Access Project - \$65,000 (No prior funding)
- (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)
 - (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 Clefts San Diego, Inc.: Together, We Grow! - \$176,829 (No prior funding)
- b) FY24-25 Monthly Grantee Reporting Index (For Information Only)

This Report was provided for informational purposes only. Only one report had not yet been received this month.

4. Sponsorships

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

Recommended for Funding: The Committee reviewed and discussed the following requests and recommends to the Board the amounts indicated. *(Prior year's funding by the District is shown in parentheses.)*

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)

F. General Information/Communications

G. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: A special meeting has been scheduled and is on the calendar for Thursday, October 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

H. Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.