

**DESERT  
HEALTHCARE  
DISTRICT  
AND  
FOUNDATION**

# Annual Report

**2024 | 2025**



**DESERT HEALTHCARE**  
DISTRICT & FOUNDATION

ADVANCING COMMUNITY WELLNESS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY  
**DHCD.ORG**

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## Mission Statement

To achieve optimal health at all stages of life for all District residents.

## Vision Statement

Equitably connecting Coachella Valley residents to health and wellness services and programs through philanthropy, health facilities, information and community education, and public policy.

# A LETTER TO RESIDENTS



Dear District Residents,

When the fiscal year began on July 1, 2024, our Board of Directors and staff were in the midst of what would become a yearlong public education campaign on the future of healthcare in the Coachella Valley. At the center of our efforts was a proposal from Tenet Healthcare to renew its lease of Desert Regional Medical Center, the hospital which the Healthcare District built and opened in Palm Springs in 1951.

Tenet had operated and managed the hospital since 1997, and its current 30-year lease was nearing an end. Their new proposal would extend the agreement another 30 years starting in 2027, with the caveat that hospital ownership would transfer to Tenet in 2057.

As you might imagine, our Board had a hugely significant decision to make, one that would reverberate for decades in our desert communities.

## Measure AA

Tenet's proposal was shared with the public through print and broadcast media, social media, and 11 community forums. Our objective was to engage with you, the residents and stakeholders – to answer your questions and seek your invaluable input. Ultimately, you would make the final decision during the November 2024 election, and that you did.

After many months of negotiations with Tenet, conversations, and public meetings, the Board approved placing the multimillion-dollar, lease-purchase agreement on the ballot as Measure AA. It was approved by more than 70 percent of valley voters.

Since that momentous day, District leaders and staff have been implementing next steps. In 2026, our current strategic plan ends – just a year before the original lease expires. A good strategic plan serves as a roadmap or guide defining the health- and wellness-focused programs we will fund and support. With an estimated \$650 million expected from Tenet over the new lease period, it was imperative for the District to reconsider priorities as it began developing a new strategic plan.

## Revisiting the Strategic Plan

By the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2025, the process of identifying a strategic planning

consultant was underway. It's an exciting time for the Healthcare District as we explore the possibilities of how to strengthen the vital healthcare infrastructure that serves residents where they are today and well into the future.

Preparing for a new era is important work that calls for collaboration, which is an essential component of our approach to advancing community wellness. It's what the District has done for years through great partnerships with nonprofit organizations, community leaders, and the more than 400,000 residents who entrust their health to Coachella Valley providers, institutions, and public agencies. We welcome you to attend and participate in future community sessions to help develop our new strategic plan.

## Other Highlights

- ▶ Launched the Healthy Desert, Healthy You Environmental Health Summit in September 2024. The two-day summit was attended by more than 300 people. Following its success, planning began for a second environmental health summit in fall 2025.
- ▶ An extension of the inaugural environmental health summit was the debut of the Healthy Desert, Healthy You Podcast to engage stakeholders in conversations about a host of health and wellness topics.
- ▶ Continuing growth of our mobile medical clinic program. Our clinic operator, DPMG Health, and staff identified the need to coordinate and offer women's health services, including mammograms and pap smears, in partnership with The Pink Journey Foundation and other organizations.

You will learn in this annual report more about these services, as well as our commitment to increase and support mental health programs and to reverse a pernicious shortage of physicians and healthcare professionals in the valley. Our hope is that this report conveys that the District stands ready as a thought leader and partner to help ensure that Coachella Valley residents, including the most vulnerable, continue to access local, quality healthcare services and a rewarding quality of life.

Thank you for your support.

**CEO Chris Christensen, CPA**

**Board President Carole Rogers, RN, MPH**





# MILESTONES

**1948** The Desert Healthcare District is founded as a local government agency to build Desert Hospital in Palm Springs to provide access to care in western Coachella Valley communities.

**1967** The Desert Healthcare Foundation is established with its own Board to support operation of the nonprofit Desert Hospital.

**1997** Ongoing financial challenges prompt the District Board to lease Desert Hospital to Tenet Healthcare for 30 years, as the District shifts its focus to establishing a grants program to advance community health and wellness programs.

**2018** A ballot measure to expand the District's geographic boundary east of Cook Street, encompassing the entire Coachella Valley, is overwhelmingly approved by voters. The expansion requires adding two Board seats in the eastern valley, increasing the board to seven Directors.

**2020** The District earns certification for best practices from both the California Special Districts Association and Association of California Healthcare Districts.

**2023** The Board and staff celebrate the District's 75th anniversary with the release of a history book.

**2024** Seventy-one percent of Coachella Valley voters approve a 30-year lease-purchase agreement for Desert Regional Medical Center (formerly Desert Hospital), transferring hospital ownership from the District to Tenet Healthcare in 2057.

**2025** The funds awarded by the District since 1998 total \$106,316,382.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Leticia De Lara,  
MPA  
**Director**  
**Zone 7**

Arthur Shorr  
**Director**  
**Zone 5**

Eve Perez Gil  
**Director**  
**Zone 4**

Carole Rogers  
RN, MPH  
**President**  
**Zone 2**

Greg Rodriguez  
**Vice-President**  
**Zone 1**

Kimberly Barraza  
**Secretary**  
**Zone 6**

Daniel Logsdon,  
MD  
**Treasurer**  
**Zone 3**

## Board Meetings & Documents

To enhance public access to the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation Board's meeting schedule and documents, a new online platform was introduced this year: Diligent's Board and Government Solutions (see the QR Code below).

After evaluating demos, references, pricing options, and deliverables, District staff selected and implemented Diligent which boasts 1 million users, including more than 700,000 board members who use the software to enhance governance efficiency. Diligent also emphasizes its commitment to sustainability and social governance through its People, Planet, and Purpose initiative.

Tasks that previously required hours of compiling and rearranging PDF documents, writing meeting minutes, and recording votes are now completed on one user-friendly platform. Online features emphasizing public transparency include:

- A list and calendar of upcoming and recent meetings, exploring discussions and decisions from previous meetings, searching for topics of interest, and subscribing to notifications about future meetings.
- Real-time video meeting access, which also enhances accessibility.

Diligent's cloud-based software meets the District & Foundation's current needs while being adaptable to growth with the agency for years to come, significantly boosting efficiency, fostering collaboration, and ensuring public transparency.



<https://dhcd.diligent.community>

# Committees

Board Directors are asked to serve on six standing committees and ad hoc committees (formed as needed) to advise the full Board. Each year following the general election, the Board President appoints Directors to their committee assignments. All standing committee meetings are open to the public.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### **Finance, Administration, Real Estate and Legal Committee (F&A Committee)**

*3 p.m. Second Tuesday*  
RAP Foundation - Satellite Office  
Director Daniel Logsdon, MD, chairperson  
Director Leticia De Lara, MPA  
Director Arthur Shorr

### **Hospital Lease Oversight Committee**

*9:30 a.m. Quarterly Third Thursday*  
Palm Springs Office  
Director Carole Rogers, RN, chairperson  
Director Greg Rodriguez  
Director Arthur Shorr

### **Program Committee**

*4 p.m. Second Wednesday*  
RAP Foundation - Satellite Office  
Director Evett PerezGil, chairperson  
Director Kimberly Barraza  
Director Greg Rodriguez

### **Strategic Planning Committee**

*1:30 p.m. Quarterly Second Thursday*  
RAP Foundation - Satellite Office  
Director Greg Rodriguez, chairperson  
Director Kimberly Barraza  
Director Leticia De Lara, MPA

### **Board & Staff Communications & Policies Committee**

*4 p.m. Quarterly Second Thursday*  
Palm Springs Office  
Director Carole Rogers, RN, chairperson  
Director Leticia De Lara, MPA  
Director Evett PerezGil

### **Legislative Policy Committee**

*10:30 a.m. Second Tuesday*  
RAP Foundation - Satellite Office  
Director Kimberly Barraza, chairperson  
Director Greg Rodriguez  
Director Carole Rogers

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### **Governance Task Force Ad Hoc Committee**

Director Kimberly Barraza, chairperson  
Director Evett PerezGil  
Director Carole Rogers, RN

### **Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homelessness Committee**

*Third Wednesday @ 10 a.m.*  
Director Carole Rogers, RN, serves as the District designee.

### **Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board**

*Third Thursday @ 12 p.m.*  
Director Carole Rogers, RN, and Director Greg Rodriguez

### **AB 617 Steering Committee**

Director Kimberly Barraza, District designee, and  
Director Leticia De Lara, alternate

### **Blue Zones Initiative Steering Committee**

Director Greg Rodriguez

## MEETING TIMES:

**Program Committee**  
*Second Wednesday @ 4 p.m.*

**Finance & Administration Committee**  
*Second Tuesday @ 3 p.m.*

**Legislative Policy Committee**  
*Second Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.*

**Strategic Planning Committee**  
*Quarterly Second Thursday @ 1:30 p.m.*

**Hospital Lease Oversight Committee**  
*Quarterly Third Thursday @ 9:30 a.m.*

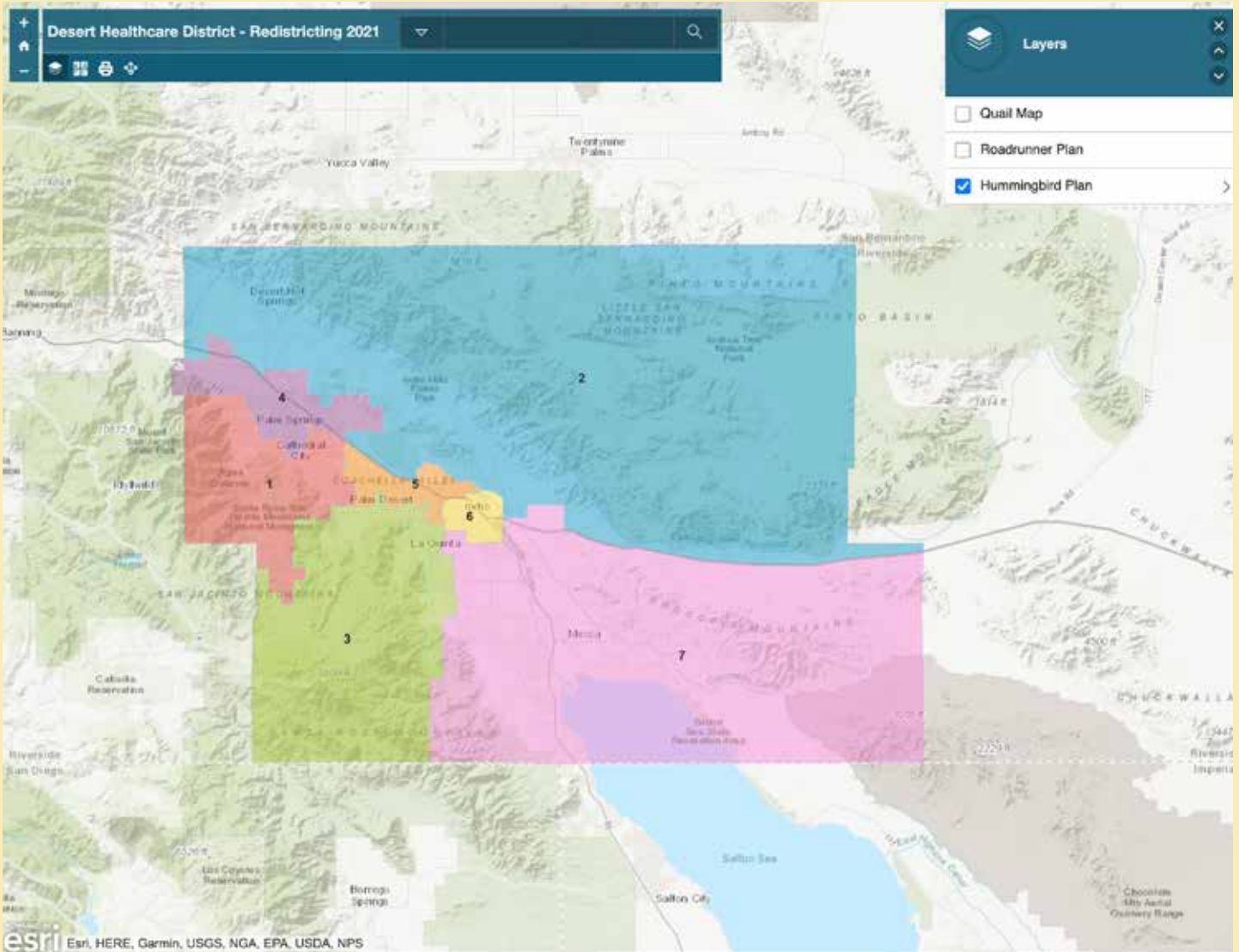
**Board and Staff Communications and Policies**  
*Quarterly Second Thursday @ 4 p.m.*

## MEETING LOCATIONS:

**Satellite Office, Regional Access**  
Project Foundation, 41550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260

**Main Office, Desert Healthcare**  
District & Foundation, 1140 N. Indian Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262

# District Map & Foundation



The Desert Healthcare District is composed of seven geographic zones covering the Coachella Valley. Each zone consists of about 60,000 residents, from which a Director is elected to serve a four-year term on the agency's Board.

In 2018, prompted by a growing requirement for California's special districts, municipalities and other government agencies to improve diverse representation, the Desert Healthcare District took on a zoning process that included multiple public hearings and map presentations. A five-zone map was approved that summer, moving the District from at-large to zone-based Board member elections. Following voters' approval in November 2018 to expand the District east of Cook Street, a rezoning process got underway to create the seven zones.

To find additional data, explore our interactive Hummingbird Map through the link:  
<https://ndcresearch.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=61572b864004444899d50944a03412e2>

Scan to learn about our foundation or visit  
<https://www.dhcd.org/Foundation>





# STAFF



**Chris Christensen, CPA**  
*Chief Executive Officer*



**Donna Craig**  
*Chief Program Officer*



**Eric Taylor, CPA**  
*Chief Administration Officer*



**Alejandro Espinoza, MPH, CHES**  
*Chief of Community Engagement*



**Will Dean**  
*Director of Communications and Marketing*



**Meghan Kane, MPH**  
*Senior Program Officer*



**Andrea S. Hayles, MBA**  
*Special Assistant to the CEO and Board Relations Officer*



**Erica Huskey**  
*Grants Manager*



**Sergio Rodriguez Pineda**  
*Program Assistant*



**Consuelo Márquez**  
*Communications Assistant*



**Gracie Montañó**  
*Program Associate*



**Christian Lance, CPA**  
*Accounting Manager*



**Belen Navarro**  
*Program Support Specialist*



# STRATEGIC PLAN

The Desert Healthcare District & Foundation (DHCD/F) Board adopted in October 2021 a five-year strategic plan. The plan identifies and prioritizes seven goals the agency advances through funding and programmatic support in alignment with the District & Foundation's mission and vision.

## GOAL 1

Proactively increase the financial resources DHCD/F can apply to support community health needs

## GOAL 2

Proactively expand community access to primary and specialty care services

★ HIGH PRIORITY ★

## GOAL 3

Proactively expand community access to behavioral/mental health services

★ HIGH PRIORITY ★

## GOAL 4

Proactively measure and evaluate the impact of DHCD/F-funded programs and services on the health of community residents

## GOAL 5

Be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the economic stability of the District residents (on a situational basis)

## GOAL 6

Be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the environment in the District's service area

★ HIGH PRIORITY ★

## GOAL 7

Be responsive to and supportive of selected community initiatives that enhance the general health education of the District's residents

The current strategic plan will expire in 2026. Following the passage of Measure AA in November 2024, the District & Foundation launched on March 1, 2025, a Request for Proposals seeking a strategic planning consultant to develop a new plan. The consultant will play a key role in shaping the District & Foundation's long-term vision by assessing current strategies, engaging stakeholders, facilitating Board workshops, evaluating financial situations, and ensuring the strategic plan is actionable, responsive, and aligned with the community's evolving needs.



# GRANTS

## History of Grantmaking

After Tenet Healthcare Corporation, the for-profit healthcare chain, took over responsibility for the daily operations, management and budget for Desert Hospital in 1997, it renamed the facility Desert Regional Medical Center. Desert Hospital District suddenly found itself out of a job, though it would continue to retain an oversight role with two seats on a separate five-seat hospital oversight board.

But the District quickly reinvented itself and developed a new mission. Instead of focusing its attention exclusively on the hospital, as it had done for the preceding half century, the District turned its attention — and its budget — to providing grants to support the many nonprofit organizations that collectively comprise the Coachella Valley's health and wellness safety net. The District changed its name to Desert Healthcare District to reflect its new mission.

The Desert Hospital Foundation, its nonprofit fundraising arm, changed its name and its mission, too. Instead of organizing golf tournaments and other fundraising events to pay for new equipment or to support hospital expansion projects, such as the construction of a maternity ward or a trauma center, the foundation renamed itself Desert Healthcare Foundation and began looking for health and wellness initiatives it could support with grant funds as well.

Since 1998, both the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation have issued more than \$100 million in grants to improve the health and wellness of residents living within the District's borders. Most of these grants have been provided to nonprofit organizations that collectively comprise the Coachella Valley's health and wellness safety net. District and Foundation grants strengthen these nonprofit organizations and enable them to provide more services to residents than they would otherwise be able to provide.

# Grant Awards

The Desert Healthcare District's grant program supports collaborative processes and invests in the services and programs of local nonprofits, health service providers, and public agencies that align with and advance the District's mission, vision, and the implementation of the 2021-2026 strategic plan.

## Grants Awarded (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

*Total Amount Awarded (including the Social Services Fund):*

\$4,966,444

## Total Number of Grants Awarded

*(Some organizations received multiple grants)*



## 22 Organizations Received Funding:

- ▶ Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America St. Louis Chapter
- ▶ \*Birthchoice of the Desert
- ▶ California CareForce
- ▶ CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation
- ▶ Desert AIDS Project d/b/a/ DAP Health
- ▶ Desert Arc
- ▶ Desert Recreation Foundation
- ▶ Desert Sands Unified School District
- ▶ \*GANAS - Genuine. Animate. Navigate. Assist. Succeed.
- ▶ OneFuture Coachella Valley
- ▶ Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
- ▶ Regents Of The University Of California At Riverside
- ▶ Reynaldo J Carreon M D Foundation
- ▶ \*Riverside County Office of Education Alternative Education
- ▶ \*Shay's Warriors
- ▶ \*St. John's Community Health
- ▶ \*The Bridges 2 Hope
- ▶ Theresa A. Mike Scholarship Foundation
- ▶ Variety Children's Charities of the Desert Tent 66
- ▶ Visión y Compromiso
- ▶ Word of Life
- ▶ Youth Leadership Institute

*\* Indicates first-time grantees this fiscal year*





## Advancing and Implementing Results-Based Accountability to Drive Community Impact



In July 2023, the Desert Healthcare District adopted Results-Based Accountability (RBA) as a core framework to guide the implementation of its strategic plan. RBA provides a clear, structured method for improving outcomes by identifying community challenges, setting measurable goals, and using data to drive real, lasting change. Since adoption, RBA has been applied across the District's work, shaping how we plan, fund, evaluate, and communicate our impact.

RBA centers on improving quality of life for the people we serve. Rather than simply tracking activity, RBA focuses on outcomes — asking whether our work is making a measurable difference in the community. At the heart of this framework are three essential questions:

- **How much did we do?**
- **How well did we do it?**
- **Is anyone better off?**

These questions guide the District's approach to program funding, performance tracking, and community engagement. They ensure that both the volume and quality of services are evaluated and that efforts are leading to positive results for Coachella Valley residents.





## From Data to Action: Using RBA and Turn the Curve Thinking

At the core of our RBA practice is Turn the Curve thinking, a disciplined process that uses data to understand trends, identify barriers, and guide strategies that can improve outcomes over time. The District uses this approach to make decisions grounded in evidence and focused on long-term community well-being.

A key component of identifying where to act is our use of data walks — collaborative sessions where community members, partners, and stakeholders review and interpret local data together. These data walks are essential to uncovering gaps, surfacing lived experiences, and identifying strategic opportunities that guide the focus of new RFPs. This ensures that the District's funding priorities are not only evidence-based but community-informed.

By combining RBA, Turn the Curve thinking, and data walks, the District is better positioned to direct resources toward efforts that are timely, aligned, and responsive to local needs.



## Transparency and Accountability: Explore Our RBA Dashboards

To promote transparency, accountability, and shared learning, the District maintains a set of interactive RBA dashboards. These dashboards track the performance of programs funded through the District's strategic plan and RFPs — both active and concluded — and offer a view into how community outcomes are shifting over time. These dashboards allow you to:

- ▶ View performance measures from funded programs
- ▶ Monitor progress on strategic priorities
- ▶ Understand how services are increasing access, reducing disparities, and improving quality of life for Coachella Valley residents

They serve as a tool for internal reflection, continuous improvement, and public engagement. By making this data accessible, the District ensures that stakeholders can see how resources are being used and their results.

We invite you to explore the Results-Based Accountability webpage and dive into the dashboards to see how this work is making an impact across our region:

<https://dhcd.org/Results-Based-Accountability>

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

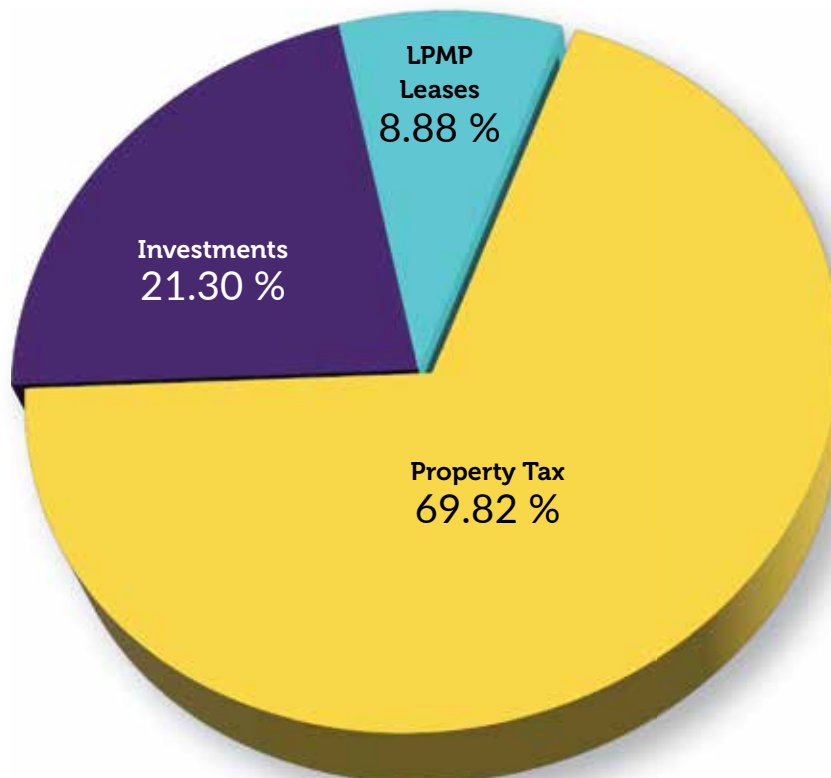
The Desert Healthcare District, together with the Desert Healthcare Foundation, is one of the largest funders in the Coachella Valley. These funds are used to assist residents – especially the underserved – in accessing vitally needed resources, such as primary and behavioral healthcare.

There are primarily three funding sources to the District and Foundation: a local property tax allocation from Riverside County based on property owners in the western Coachella Valley; returns from the agency's investment portfolio; and revenues from leasing space at Las Palmas Medical Plaza (LPMP), the property the agency owns at 555 E. Tachevah Drive in Palm Springs.

The agency received \$16.9 million during fiscal year 2024-2025. Here's the breakdown:



Total: \$16.9 million





# INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS



# Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Collective



The Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Collective, established in early 2023, is a community-led initiative initially co-chaired by the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation and Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH). The Collective was formed in response to the 2019 Coachella Valley Behavioral Health Needs Assessment and builds upon more than a decade of District investments in mental health services.

The Collective's mission is to advance an equitable behavioral health system with the capacity and infrastructure to provide services and empower all Coachella Valley residents. Its objective is to collaboratively build and maintain a sustainable, accessible system that reduces stigma, raises awareness of available services, and removes barriers to care.

The Collective brings together a diverse group of stakeholders including leaders in healthcare, education, nonprofit organizations, and local government who are committed to addressing shared priorities such as workforce development, access to care, stigma reduction, and policy advancement. The group convenes quarterly, creating space for ongoing dialogue, shared learning, and strategic coordination.

In addition to the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation, the Collective consists of representatives from:



**Jewish Family Service  
of the Desert**



**Office of Riverside County's  
Fourth District Supervisor V.  
Manuel Perez**



**OneFuture  
Coachella Valley**



**Riverside University  
Health Systems**



**Voices for  
Children**

Recent discussions have focused on local behavioral health trends, the implications of California's Proposition 1, and updates on efforts to address gaps in mental and behavioral health services. Since the Collective's formation, the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation has committed more than \$3 million to support behavioral health initiatives throughout the Coachella Valley.

# Connect IE



ConnectIE is a free, easy-to-use database of health and community resources with closed loop bi-directional referral capabilities. ConnectIE, or connectie.org, is a tool for agencies to manage client relationships and a system for healthcare providers to facilitate cross-sector sharing of information to streamline and improve outcomes for people needing assistance. It's also a place where people can "opt in" to participate in a network for accessing low-cost or free resources.

## Training & Onboarding for Coachella Valley Nonprofits

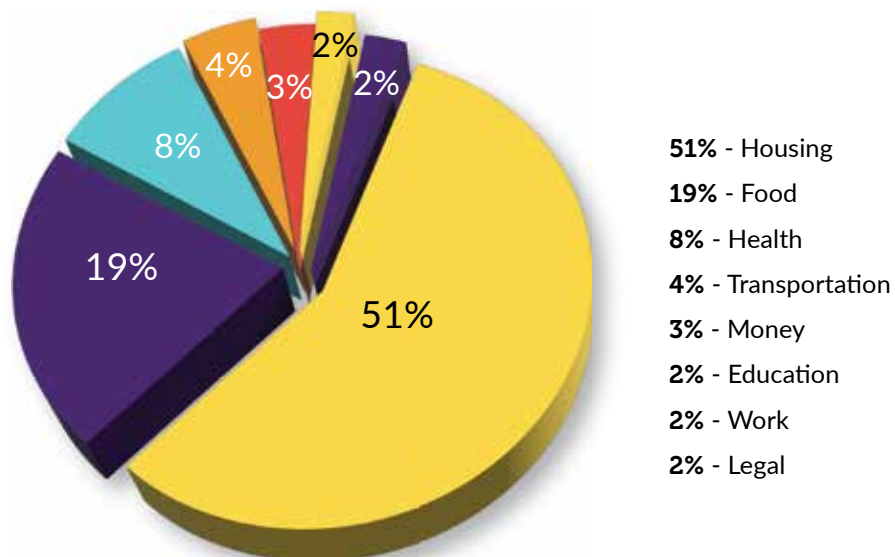


## Connect IE Search Engine Analytics

21,143  
unique searches

755  
referrals made via the platform

## Most commonly searched resources:





# Environmental Health Initiative

As a part of continued efforts to address pressing environmental health concerns, the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation released in fall 2024 a Request for Proposal (RFP) totaling \$1 million over two years to mitigate the health impacts of air pollution in the Coachella Valley.

Air pollution — exacerbated locally by vehicle emissions, agricultural activity, desert dust, and the drying Salton Sea — poses significant health risks, especially to vulnerable populations such as children, seniors, and individuals with pre-existing conditions. Following Tropical Storm Hilary, community concerns intensified due to worsening air quality. In response, we hosted a community data walk that brought together stakeholders to review health and environmental data, identify challenges, and co-create strategies.

The insights gathered informed the development of the RFP, which sought to fund projects that:

- ▶ Increase and enhance awareness and foster connections to mitigate the impact of air quality on health conditions and outcomes.
- ▶ Evaluate household environments to identify methods for improving indoor air quality.
- ▶ Increase access to health services to reduce the impact of poor air quality on health.

This initiative reflects the District & Foundation's commitment to advancing community-driven solutions that prevent, diagnose, and manage air quality-related health conditions, ultimately aiming to protect public health and improve quality of life for Coachella Valley residents.

Through this funding opportunity, five community-based organizations were awarded grants totaling \$997,353 to carry out innovative and targeted interventions. Together, these partners will lead efforts to increase awareness,

provide household-level support, and deliver culturally responsive wrap-around services that reduce the adverse health effects of poor air quality.

## RFP GRANTEES

### Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America — St. Louis Chapter (\$199,876)

**Focus:** Providing training for school nurses, distributing medical supplies, and supporting families through referrals.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- ▶ **Training and Education** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Provide six trainings for school nurses and staff, training at least 60 on undesignated albuterol.
- ▶ **Respiratory Support** (By Dec. 31, 2026): De-escalate 500 respiratory distress events, distribute 350 inhalers and 3,200 spacers.
- ▶ **Community Health Referrals** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Refer 150 students using stock albuterol to community health partners.

### DAP Health (\$200,000)

**Focus:** Bilingual marketing campaign to increase healthcare access for air quality-related conditions, training clinicians, and providing community referrals.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- ▶ **Bilingual Campaign** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Launch a bilingual marketing campaign with 450 TV ads, 3,000 radio spots, 300 PSAs, and 7 million impressions, aiming for 85,000 website visits and 48 new patients.
- ▶ **Clinician Training** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Provide 12 consultant-led training sessions to 10+ clinical staff on air quality health impacts.
- ▶ **Referral Information** (By Dec. 31,

2026): Distribute DAP Health clinic referral information to 48 partners to increase healthcare access.

- ▶ **Patient Referrals** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Receive 48 existing and 48 new patient referrals for air quality-related healthcare.

### Desert Recreation Foundation (\$197,477)

**Focus:** Air quality workshops for youth, creation of an Air Quality Flag Program, and student data collection on air pollution.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- ▶ **Youth Air Quality Workshops** (By Dec. 31, 2025): Host five air-quality workshops for 150+ youths, preparing 20 students for phase two.
- ▶ **Air Quality Flag Program** (By March 31, 2026): Implement a flag system at 10 sites with youth involvement in flag placement and community outreach.
- ▶ **Air Quality Monitoring** (By Oct. 31, 2026): Train 20 youth in air quality monitoring, have them log 100 days of data, analyze trends, and present findings.
- ▶ **Advocacy Workshops** (By Oct. 31, 2026): Host five workshops with 150 participants, expanding on air-quality topics and fostering youth leadership.

### Vision y Compromiso (\$200,000)

**Focus:** Advocate for asthma screenings and services, establish referral systems, and support access to asthma prevention services.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- ▶ **Advocacy Toolkit** (By Sept. 30, 2025): Create and distribute an advocacy toolkit for accessing health services and asthma preventive care.
- ▶ **Community Partner Network** (By Dec. 31, 2025): Establish referral

systems with six community-based organizations and health providers for asthma and air quality-related services.

► **Outreach and Workshops**

(By Dec. 31, 2026): Reach 990-1,760 individuals through outreach and educational workshops on asthma and air quality.

► **Resident Remediation Support**

(By Dec. 31, 2026): Provide asthma prevention and remediation services to residents with severe asthma.

## Youth Leadership Institute

(\$200,000)

**Focus:** Youth engagement through leadership training, air quality monitoring, and social media campaigns to raise awareness.

### DELIVERABLES:

► **Youth Recruitment** (By Feb. 28, 2025): Recruit 15 youth ages 14-24 to serve as project leaders.

► **Leadership Training** (By Sept. 30, 2025): Develop and implement leadership training, create educational materials on air quality and pollution, including a zine and public service announcement.

► **Workshops and Outreach** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Host 30 workshops, eight community events, eight school events, and complete 200 SC AQMD air purifier applications with community members.

► **Social Media Campaign** (By Dec. 31, 2026): Launch a social media campaign with 1,200 zines, public service announcement videos, and local outreach to raise awareness on air quality and asthma in the eastern Coachella Valley.

## Healthy Desert, Healthy You Environmental Health Summit

Another response to environmental health challenges, including those that surfaced during Tropical Storm Hilary in August 2023, produced an event like none seen before in the Coachella Valley. The inaugural Healthy Desert, Healthy You Environmental Health Summit was planned over a year by the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation with the invaluable aid of community partners and Hocker Productions. An overarching goal was to bring together environmental experts, health advocates, residents and other stakeholders to identify local environmental challenges and possible solutions. Previously, these issues were addressed separately by a few agencies and organizations.

Environmental protection and environmental justice initially were not the intended focus of the summit. However, early on, when the suggestion was made to the planning committee, the community-wide effects and urgency of environmental challenges immediately resonated with the committee. The District & Foundation had in recent years commissioned studies and reports on local environmental challenges and included advancing environmental health in the five-year strategic plan it approved in 2021. The topic was very much on our radar.

The summit occurred over a day and half in September 2024 at a resort in Rancho Mirage, California. More than 300 people attended the various panel discussions. It was such a resounding success that the District Board and staff decided to present a second summit in September 2025.

To emphasize the District & Foundation's commitment to addressing environmental health challenges, staff announced at the first summit that it would be launching the aforementioned

\$1 million air mitigation Request for Proposal.

Promoting the Healthy Desert, Healthy You Environmental Health Summit involved an extensive media campaign in partnership with media sponsors and other print, broadcast and social media outlets. Leading up to the summit, announcements of confirmed speakers, panel topics, a keynote, and resources were shared through a website created for the summit, [healthydeserthealthyyou.com](http://healthydeserthealthyyou.com). The website remains a vital connection to attendees post-summit.

## Healthy Desert, Healthy You Podcast

After the summit, the District & Foundation launched a podcast to continue the conversations about environmental health challenges that began at the summit. Speakers and moderators were invited to appear on the podcast. Twelve episodes were recorded, featuring **Indio City Councilman Oscar Ortiz, Health Assessment & Research for Communities CEO Jenna LeComte-Hinely, Ph.D., and UCR Medical Anthropologist Ann Cheney, Ph.D.,** among others.

As intended, the podcast also became an essential tool for promoting the second annual summit in fall 2025.

Because the District & Foundation funds and supports nonprofit organizations working in a variety of health and wellness services, the Healthy Desert, Healthy You podcast also engages experts in topics beyond environmental health. Episodes featured **District & Foundation Board President Carole Rogers, CEO Chris Christensen, and Palm Springs Black Wellness Founder Shamora Wright.** The podcast is available on Spotify, Amazon Music, Audible and most podcast platforms.

# Mobile Medical Clinics

The Desert Healthcare District & Foundation's mobile medical clinic program, in partnership with Desert Physicians Medical Group (DPMG) Health, is a vital resource for expanding access to healthcare for underserved populations across the Coachella Valley, with a strong focus on farmworkers, unhoused individuals, and students. By bringing high-quality medical services directly into the community — whether to agricultural sites, homeless shelters, or school campuses — the clinic helps eliminate barriers such as transportation, cost, and limited clinic hours.

Farmworkers benefit from convenient, onsite care that accommodates their demanding work schedules, while unhoused individuals receive compassionate services in familiar and supportive settings. Through partnerships with local school districts, the clinic also provides students with wellness exams, immunizations, and sports physicals, ensuring they are healthy and ready to learn. Operated with bilingual, culturally competent teams, the mobile clinic model meets people where they are, advancing health equity and improving access to healthcare throughout the Coachella Valley.

General outreach by the numbers (Adult and children patients seen, frequency of clinic deployments, types of screenings)

## Mobile Medical Clinic #1

Total number of patients: 5,123

- Female: 2,406
- Male: 2,717
- Adults: 3,028
- Children (0-18yrs): 2,085
- Unknown: 10



234

Total number  
of deployments

42

Total number of unique  
locations the mobile  
unit was deployed

### Types of Services/Screenings

- ▶ Vaccinations
- ▶ Primary care
- ▶ Sports physicals (high school athletes)
- ▶ School enrollment physicals
- ▶ Chronic disease management
- ▶ Wound care
- ▶ Routine health screenings (hypertension, glucose, hyperlipidemia, etc.)
- ▶ Referrals to specialty care (behavioral health, OB/GYN, dental, etc.)

### Most Common Referrals

- ▶ Laboratory
- ▶ Dental
- ▶ Primary Care Physician
- ▶ OB/GYN
- ▶ Behavioral Health

## Mobile Medical Clinic #2 Clinical & Pharmacy Hub

Total number of visits: 8,295

- Women: 4,812
- Men: 3,483
- Adults: 7,671
- Children (0-18): 624



### Types of Services/Screenings:

- ▶ Primary care
- ▶ Pediatric
- ▶ OB/GYN
- ▶ Chronic disease management
- ▶ Psychiatric
- ▶ Women's Health
- ▶ Minor surgeries and ambulatory procedures
- ▶ Pharmacology

### Most Common Referrals

- ▶ Behavioral health
- ▶ Laboratory
- ▶ Dental
- ▶ OB/GYN
- ▶ Imaging

5,391

Total number of medications  
dispensed through mobile clinic #2 (September  
2024 to June 2025)

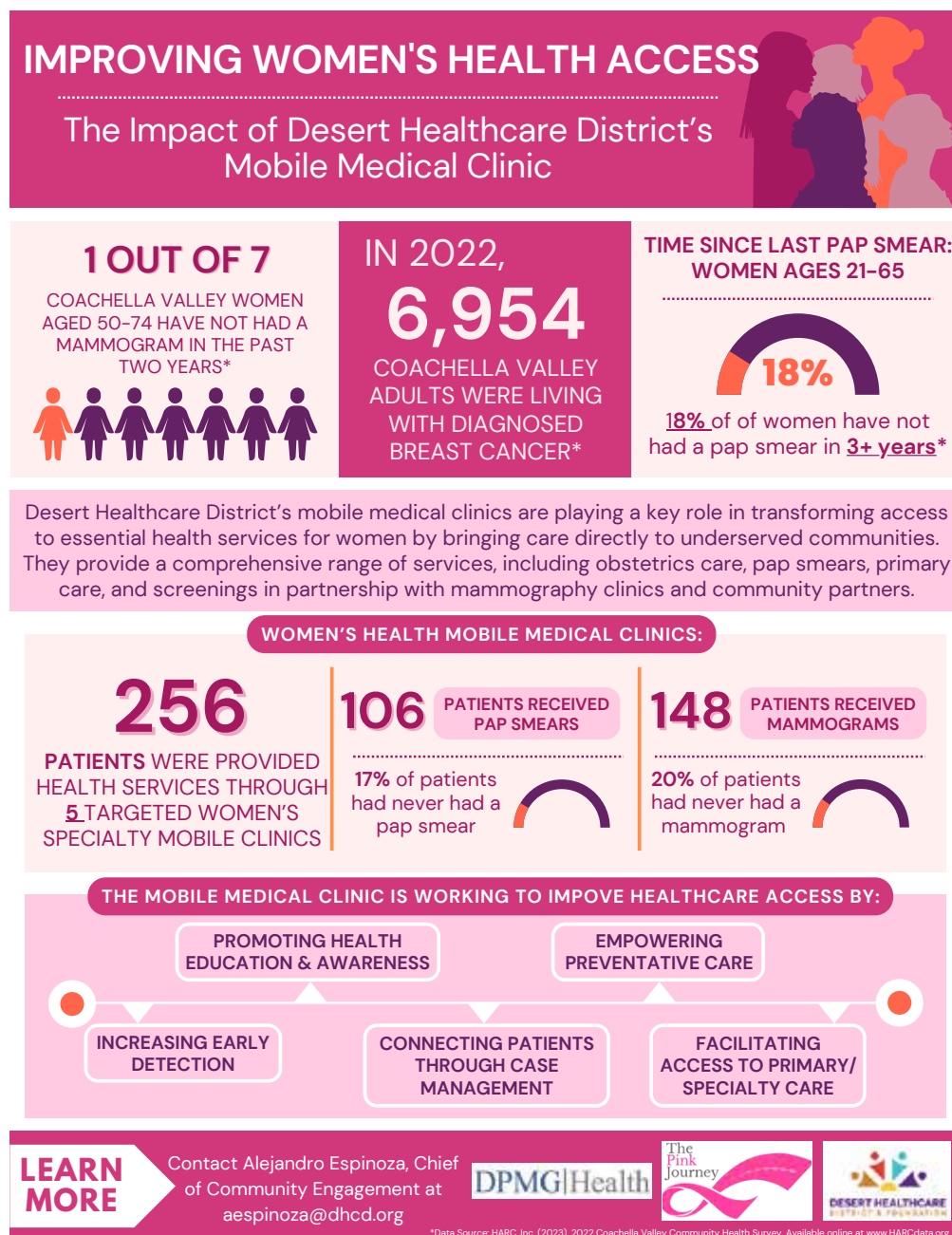
### Most common prescribed medications:

- ▶ Behavioral health
- ▶ Hypertension
- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Hyperlipidemia
- ▶ Antibiotics



## Women's Health Services

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the mobile clinics operator expanded services to increase access to women's health services. Please see the infographic for details.



## List of partners:

- ▶ Birth Choice of the Desert
- ▶ California Farmworker Foundation
- ▶ City of Desert Hot Springs
- ▶ City of Indio
- ▶ City of La Quinta
- ▶ City of Palm Springs
- ▶ Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
- ▶ Coachella Valley Pharmacy
- ▶ Coachella Valley Resource Conservation District
- ▶ Coachella Valley Unified School District
- ▶ DAP Health
- ▶ Desert Recreation District
- ▶ Desert Sands Unified School District
- ▶ DPMG Health
- ▶ Galilee Center
- ▶ Growing Coachella Valley
- ▶ Jovenes AA Recovery Center
- ▶ Martha's Village & Kitchen
- ▶ Mizell Center
- ▶ Palm Springs Unified School District
- ▶ The Pink Journey Foundation
- ▶ Riverside University Health System
- ▶ San Bernardino Catholic Diocese
- ▶ St. John's Community Health
- ▶ TODEC
- ▶ UC Riverside – School Of Medicine
- ▶ Well in the Desert
- ▶ Word of Life Fellowship Church

# Scholarships & Workforce Development

## Healthcare Workforce Leadership Roundtable

With the goal of expanding College of the Desert's associate degree in nursing program, OneFuture Coachella Valley launched in 2024 the Healthcare Workforce Leadership Roundtable with the funding support of Desert Care Network/Tenet, Eisenhower Health, Inland Empire Health Plan, and the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation.

Following the enrollment of 35 registered nursing students in August 2024, the District approved in December 2024 a two-year grant of \$374,900 supporting the enrollment of an additional 35 RN students with scholarships and holistic services. The grant aligns with the District & Foundation's strategic plan goal No. 2.

### More information:

<https://www.onefuturecv.org/2024/09/18/eisenhower-health-and-onefuture-coachella-valleys-healthcare-workforce-leadership-roundtable-expand-nurse-training-at-college-of-the-desert/>

## BY THE NUMBERS



Students Enrolled in  
COD

## Black and African-American Healthcare Scholarship Program

While recruitment is an essential tool for growing the medical community, the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation, OneFuture Coachella Valley, and other partners also are investing funds to create educational pathways for local students to establish thriving health careers in the desert.

We have been a supporter of OneFuture's Black & African American Healthcare Scholarship Initiative since it was founded in 2021. In addition to scholarships, the initiative provides Black and African American students with holistic support such as one-on-one college and career advising, leadership events, and professional development opportunities. Twenty-nine students have been awarded (72 percent attended a local high school).

This year the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation Board approved a two-year \$839,500 grant to continue support for the initiative, and other graduate students and undergraduate students who aspire to be physicians, nurses and a variety of other health professionals.

### More information:

<https://www.onefuturecv.org/2022/02/24/desert-healthcare-district-and-foundation-launches-scholarship-program-with-onefuture-to-expand-racial-diversity-in-health-professions/>

## BY THE NUMBERS



Students  
Awarded  
Since 2021



Attended  
a Valley  
High School

## Coachella Valley Economic Partnership Report

The Desert Healthcare District & Foundation engaged with Coachella Valley Economic

Partnership Director of Analytic Services David Robinson to help quantify the economic impact of the valley's need for additional healthcare professionals and services.

Using the District & Foundation's 2023 community clinical and social needs assessment as a starting point, the new study was conducted by Dr. Darren Filson of the Randall Lewis Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, with the support of Dr. Manfred Keil of Claremont McKenna College, Robinson, and District & Foundation staff.

Highlights from his report include two staffing models designed to help fill the gap of healthcare professionals who are needed in the valley. The report also features three maps that show options of where to locate future health clinics to effectively serve "high-risk communities" in medically underserved areas.

### Read the final report:

[https://www.dhcd.org/media/3391/F.1.3%20CVEP\\_DHCD%20Final%20Report.pdf](https://www.dhcd.org/media/3391/F.1.3%20CVEP_DHCD%20Final%20Report.pdf)

## BY THE NUMBERS

Healthcare Professions Shortage:



primary care physicians



psychiatrists

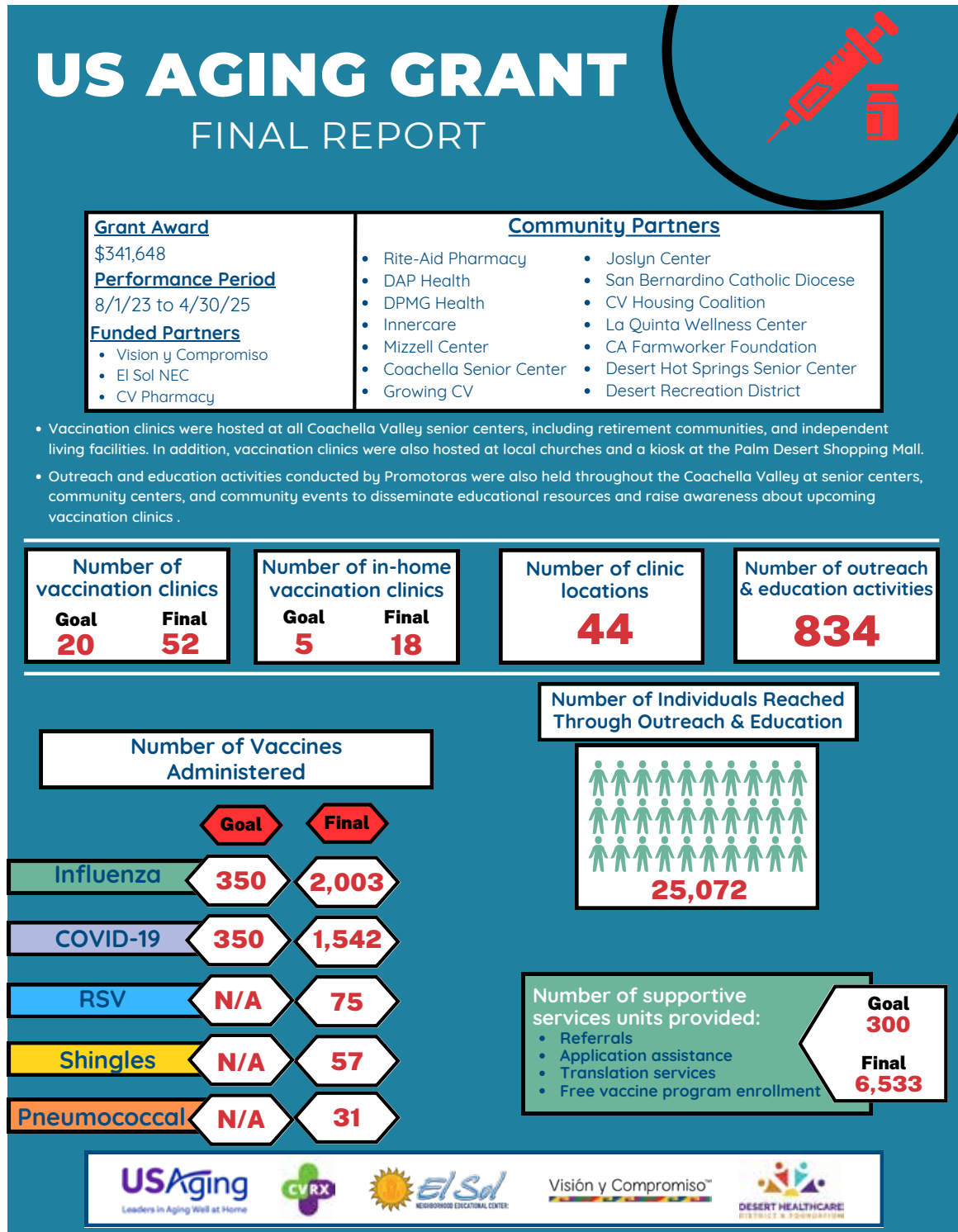


surgery specialists

# U.S. Aging Grant

As a member of the Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative, the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation was awarded the 2024 Immunization Neighborhood Champion Award by the National Adult and Influenza Summit. The award recognized the extraordinary contributions of individuals and organizations toward improving vaccination rates within their communities. Sharing the award was U.S. Aging.

Please see the infographic for details.





# AWARDS & HONORS

## 2024 STATE TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR



Desert Healthcare District & Foundation Board Director Carole Rogers, RN, was honored in September 2024 as Trustee of the Year at the Association of California

Healthcare Districts Annual Meeting in Sacramento. The recognition cited her 50 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, 10 of which were on the Board.

"I am deeply honored and humbled to be named Trustee of the Year," Rogers said. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication of the entire Desert Healthcare District & Foundation team and their unwavering commitment to advancing quality care for our community. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to my colleagues, mentors, and all the incredible healthcare professionals who inspire me every day. Together, we will continue to work toward a healthier, stronger future for the Coachella Valley."

### Immunization Champion

The Desert Healthcare District & Foundation and US Aging in Washington, D.C., were awarded the 2024 Immunization Neighborhood Champion Award by the National Adult and Influenza Immunization Summit for work through the Aging and Disability Vaccination Collaborative.

### Preparing a Future Workforce

With grant support, the District & Foundation has contributed to boosting the enrollment of registered nursing students at College of the Desert. It was an honoree on Jan. 16, 2025, with Desert Care Network, Eisenhower Health, Inland Empire Health Plan and OneFuture Coachella Valley at the College of the Desert Stepping Out Gala.

When OneFuture Coachella Valley hosted its thank-you gala commemorating its 20th anniversary in March 2025, the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation was among its partners recognized for supporting efforts to increase the local healthcare workforce. The agency has helped to fund scholarships for Black/ African American students from the valley who are pursuing careers in healthcare.





# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOTS





# THE LOOK AHEAD



Evett PerezGil, former Board president, signs an enlarged replica of the lease-purchase agreement.

## Measure AA

Tenet Healthcare will continue to operate Desert Regional Medical Center and will ultimately own the hospital, Coachella Valley voters decided on November 5, 2024. Seventy-one percent of ballots approved the lease-purchase agreement (LPA).

The LPA, which was first presented to the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation Board by Tenet leadership in September 2023, will pay the public agency about \$650 million during the 30-year lease term. It also requires Tenet to complete seismic upgrades at the hospital campus by the state-mandated 2030 deadline.

Tenet entered into its first 30-year lease agreement with the District and Foundation in 1997, as the agency shifted its focus from hospital management to community-focused grantmaking and program support. That

lease provided the District and Foundation with limited oversight of the hospital property, which is expected to continue until hospital ownership is transferred to Tenet. The initial (and current) lease ends on May 30, 2027, and the new LPA begins the next day.

This vote was the culmination of 11 months of negotiations between the District & Foundation Board with Tenet, as well as multiple public meetings for the District staff to present the LPA and receive feedback from valley residents. Other opportunities to inform the community were provided through print and broadcast media interviews, and digital and social media marketing.

CEO Chris Christensen described the years ahead as “an exciting time for the healthcare district as we reimagine our role and build upon our legacy of increasing access to healthcare for all valley residents.”

## Planning for the Future

The next chapter of how the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation implements its mission through funding and program support will be defined with a consultant's guidance. The Board of Directors voted at its meeting on July 22 to contract with Sowen, a data strategy and social impact consultancy headquartered in New York City, to create a new strategic plan.

Sowen's proposal emphasized discovery and insight gathering across five core areas: culture, people, knowledge, tools and processes. It will apply a scenario-based approach to help the District & Foundation anticipate and respond to future uncertainties in healthcare delivery amid changing policies, funding, and demographic trends in the Coachella Valley.

Another important selling point was Sowen's emphasis on community engagement during the planning process. The firm is expected to equitably engage with District & Foundation partner organizations and plan seven public community forums or sessions to begin in early 2026.

The new five-year strategic plan to be developed with Sowen will go into effect in 2027.

## The Changing Climate

The Desert Healthcare District & Foundation staff and event planner Hocker Productions were deeply immersed in planning the second annual Healthy Desert, Healthy You Environmental Health Summit as the fiscal year ended.

Scheduled for September 11 and 12, 2025, at The Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort and Spa, the free summit included a day of nine panel discussions about the challenges of air quality, water quality, and land use in the Coachella Valley. More than 50 panelists and moderators were invited to appear before and inform an audience of more than 350 guests throughout the day.



An expected highlight was keynote speaker Andrea Vidaurre, a 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize winner and one of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in 2025. Vidaurre is an Imperial County resident and co-founder of the People's Collective for Environmental Justice. She's made significant strides in changing policies on rail and truck emission rates in California.

Other features included a youth-focused panel to explore careers in environmental protection and health. There also was an update from five nonprofits that received grants through a \$1 million Request for Proposals (RFP) titled, "Mitigating Air Quality-Related Health Conditions: Prevention, Diagnosis and Management," which the District announced at the first summit and launched in 2024.

The second day of the summit consisted of tours of local sites that advance environmental protection and sustainability. Two tour routes, which ran simultaneously, included a windmill farm, solar power business, composting site, and hydrogen fuel cell plant. Learn more about the summit at [healthydeserthealthyyou.com](https://www.dhcd.org/HealthyDesertHealthyYou).



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

### How to support the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation

The District and Foundation provides two opportunities for the public to support advancing community wellness in the Coachella Valley as described below:

#### Social Services Fund

Each year, the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation provides funding to Coachella Valley hospitals and cancer centers to assist uninsured and underinsured patients with emergent healthcare needs and services determined by hospital case management counselors. These services include food vouchers, gas vouchers, transportation home from a facility, and limited prescriptions.

#### Wellness Park

The five-acre Palm Springs park features exercise equipment, recreational seating, and numerous healing fragrant plants for Desert Regional Medical Center patients, community residents and visitors to enjoy. Located just north of Ruth Hardy Park, the property also provides naming opportunities to honor a loved one by purchasing a bench, tree, or other park features.

Learn more about the park at <https://www.dhcd.org/Wellness-Park>.



*Thank you for continuing to show your support for the Desert Healthcare District & Foundation as we continue to work toward advancing community health and wellness in the Coachella Valley. Your interest and participation are integral to fulfilling our mission.*

## CONTACT US

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