

COFEM REVIEWER'S QUESTIONS

There are a few items on the application the reviewers would like detailed answers and clarification.

1. Broaden Know Your Rights and evaluation with focus groups
2. What old and new information is being distributed - detailed
3. Sustainability of the program

Response:

1. The first time COFEM received the James Irvine Foundation grant, one of its focuses was to conduct Know Your Rights outreach and education which only addressed constitutional rights under the Fifth Amendment. However, COFEM noticed often times community members would give very detailed scenarios and ask in-depth questions on their rights in their workplace and as renters. COFEM saw the need to educate people on labor and housing rights as many have shared their fear of their employers and landlords taking advantage of their immigration status to intimidate them, "what if ICE shows up at my job?" "What if I get injured in the workplace, can I do something even if I'm undocumented?" or "Do I have rights as a renter?." By informing the community beyond constitutional rights regardless of their immigration status, COFEM and Leadership Counsel will help individuals protect themselves, their coworkers, and their families.

If in-person focus groups are allowed to take place given the current COVID-19 circumstances, COFEM and Leadership Counsel will invite residents who attend workshops and/or informational sessions to participate in a focus group to seek for feedback on structure, promotion and content of these events. The goal is to have three focus groups throughout the grant period to evaluate effectiveness or any missing gaps. The focus groups will center testimonies, story-telling, and open-ended discussions to help measure the impact of grant deliverables. If there are still regulations and precautions to follow, there will be a shift in conducting those focus groups via Zoom. COFEM and Leadership Counsel have gained experience in holding Zoom community meetings, this new learned tool will be utilized if needed. The other option will be to conduct phone interviews. At every workshop and informational session there will be a sign-in sheet to collect basic information from attendees. Both organizations will use contact information to follow up with participants and do a small phone interview.

2. COFEM will continue to distribute Know Your Rights cards. These red cards help individuals protect their rights if they ever come across an immigration officer. The Know Your Rights powerpoint presentation that will be used for the Comprehensive Workshops will now include, labor rights and tenant rights. This time around, COFEM and Leadership Counsel will develop a resource guide that will have

labor and tenant rights. This guide will also include new information on health and food resources. This type of resources have always been critical but have become a greater need due to COVID-19. The presentation for DACA Informational Sessions will still mention the California Dream Act, which that has not and will not change. However, given the current pending Supreme Court decision on DACA, the presentation will have the latest updates and news on DACA. We are expected to hear about this decision in June, therefore, there will be an immediate need to communicate new updates and changes to the undocumented community.

3. COFEM has been deeply committed to working with immigrant families in the Coachella Valley since it began educating, organizing, and mobilizing families in the area in 2008. Outreach and education is one of the core pillars of COFEM's strategic plan; the second being organizing and advocacy. Offering information on Know Your Rights, as well as other information imperative to immigrant families, is at the heart of COFEM's work. As such, it's staffing plan and fundraising plan are structured to maintain these priorities. COFEM's Coachella office has been staffed by a Program Coordinator and Program Assistant without interruption since 2008, and we expect to maintain these two positions in the future. Both play a significant role in outreach and education and in the current proposed program. Current funders of our work in Coachella aside from the James Irvine Foundation and the Conservation Lands Foundation include the College Futures Foundation, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center, One California, and the Marguerite Casey Foundation. All of these are multi-year grants and COFEM has been a recipient on more than one occasion of three of these grants (ILRC, One California, and Casey). COFEM expects some of these relationships to continue in the future. COFEM also continues to look for new funding sources. For example, the College Futures Foundation was a new, two-year grant received in 2018. The funder is satisfied with our work and has indicated that we may be considered for future funding. We will seek new relationships like that with CFF.