

2021 COVID-19 Recovery Grant **Request Summary**

COVID-19 Recovery Grant Application

In response to the strain the COVID-19 virus pandemic is placing on the local healthcare system and community-based organizations, the Desert Healthcare District and the Regional Access Project have made available grant funds to provide additional support and resources to our local healthcare and service providers.

Olive Crest, Grant #1223

About the Organization

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Organization Type:

501(c)(3)

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Proposal

Project Title: COVID-19 Emergency Support for Vulnerable Children/Families in Coachella Valley

Total Project Budget: \$19,172,068.00

Requested Amount: \$10,000.00

Start Date: 4/1/2021

End Date: 6/30/2021

Project/Program Description

Community Need: *Define a specific need(s) for the project and describe the alignment to ongoing COVID-19 relief, recovery, and assistance efforts.*

Over this past year, your generous support has helped Olive Crest bring hope and stability to some of Coachella Valley's most vulnerable children and families during incredibly stressful, turbulent times through our emergency COVID-19 response program. Thank you.

Olive Crest deeply appreciates this opportunity to approach the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation with a new request for a \$10,000 grant to provide COVID-19 response relief services in Coachella Valley.

The prolonged pandemic has resulted in increasing rates of child abuse and neglect, with local children and families needing Olive Crest's services. The trauma of the pandemic, quarantines, economic fallout, and more—often on top of personal or family trauma—has also meant that a greater percentage of those requesting or being referred for services are considered acute cases, needing access to extensive and long-term services. The pandemic has given rise to 1) an increased rate of growth in services and 2) a spike in the acuity of cases being treated through our local Coachella Valley teams. Our experienced child welfare workers have commented about dealing with cases that are much worse than they have ever seen before. In fact, a special team has been created to handle these most-challenging cases upon intake and work with mental health professionals and case managers to diagnose the situation and determine an immediate course of action before passing along the case to less-experienced team members.

Taken together, the increased numbers of cases and the increased acuity have made it critical for Olive Crest's program leadership to identify and provide the appropriate trainings for children, parents/guardians, and our staff. This heightened emphasis has already proven critical in equipping all of those involved in these cases with the tools to best handle incidents of abuse or neglect.

Project Description: *What program/service are you performing or providing that is vital to your target population during the current COVID-19 public health crisis and describe its importance.*

Olive Crest cares for nearly 400 vulnerable young people/families daily throughout the Coachella Valley—individuals who were already in crisis before COVID-19 and who now face even greater uncertainty, instability, and compounded trauma. Olive Crest has been providing tele-health services; remote case management/life skills classes; food and extra support, including:

- **CREATING FAMILY PRESERVATION CRISIS TEAM:** Our more experienced program staff operate as first-responders to the most difficult cases—and have been initiating priority sessions with one of several psychiatrists to address dangerous behaviors and develop appropriate plans of support. Through DocuSign/e-scribe, appropriate support and medication can be provided in a short amount of time. Once cases moderate, a regular family preservation team takes on the day-to-day case management for the child/family while a crisis team member tracks progress.
- **SERVING BASIC NEEDS:** We have been providing food/essential items to families who been hit with unemployment, in-home care of their children due to school closures, health issues, and financial instability.

- **SUPPORTING TRANSITIONAL-AGE YOUTH:** Many of our aged-out foster youth have struggled with loss of employment and the elimination of in-person classes at colleges/trade schools. Funding has helped to relocate these youth to a more central location that is in walking distance to College of the Desert and a larger number of job opportunities. This move has also helped to limit individual isolation as they shifted from homes to apartments. Staff has continued to provide remote AND in-person case management; have increased visitations; and provided financial assistance to help with housing/essential needs.
- **HELPING OUT BEFORE CRISIS ESCALATES:** Our Safe Families program expands community-based support, which provides temporary, safe, homes for children whose parents are struggling in crisis. To date, Safe Families has provided 104 hostings since July, 2020. This is nearly twice the amount of hostings from the prior year!

Is this a new project or an expansion of a preexisting project? Please describe if the proposed project has been developed recently or if a preexisting program has been modified to address the impact of the COVID-19 virus

This is an expansion of pre-existing projects. In response to the tremendous challenges produced by the pandemic, Olive Crest's programs are projected to grow by 10-15% in the Coachella Valley during 2021. This growth will happen through 1) family preservation ("Wraparound") services and 2) preventative care (Safe Families) for the children of parents in crisis. Olive Crest is growing these critically-needed programs, while continuing efforts in all services.

How will the grant funds be used? Please describe specifically how the grant funds will be used towards operational and/or programmatic support?

A \$10,000 COVID-19 grant from Desert Healthcare District and Foundation will help cover costs to support the expected 10-15% expansion in essential safety-net services and counseling as we continue providing tele-health and both remote and in-person case management to Coachella Valley's most vulnerable children and families. Specifically, a \$10,000 grant from your foundation will help support the vulnerable young people and families in our care through expanded counseling and case management services; food, groceries, and other basic needs; and safe, temporary homes for children during times of family crisis.

Some more background: Nearly a quarter of young people are expressing a serious increase in mental health issues because of isolation and stress—with too many of these young people reporting that they have contemplated suicide. Transitional-aged youth, in particular, have experienced job loss and cut wages; challenges with navigating community college and trade programs online; and a lack of healthy family support. Families—particularly vulnerable, low-income, and at-risk families—have been

significantly impacted by the financial implications of social distancing, lost wages, and unemployment, as well. This includes households who lack a network of support, are headed by senior caregivers of grandchildren and have underlying health conditions, and foster parents who have suddenly lost employment.

We welcome the partnership of the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation, with these special COVID-19 relief funds, as we help some of the Desert regions most vulnerable children, youth and families navigate this next phase of the pandemic.

Geographical Area Served

Coachella; Desert Hot Springs; Indio; Indian Wells; La Quinta; North Shore; Oasis; Palm Desert; Palm Springs; Rancho Mirage

Population Served

Adults (25-64 years old); Children (6-17 years old); Infants (0 -5 years old); Uninsured; Youth (18-24 years old)

How many residents will be served? *Please provide the number of unduplicated number of individuals and/or number of services provided*

400

Evaluation *Please describe how the success and/or impact of on-going operations or the proposed project will be evaluated*

Evaluation

Using our proprietary Client Management and Tracking database, we will generate reports on the total number of clients receiving training and track their corresponding functional assessment through CAFAS (Child and Adolescent Functional Assessment Scale) to show impact of trainings.