

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.

Palo Verde College Foundation, Grant #1200

About the Organization

Palo Verde College Foundation
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Blythe, CA 92225
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Organization Type:

501(c)(3)

Contact:

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Proposal

Project Title: PVC LVN COVID-19 Grant

Total Project Budget: \$15,000.00

Requested Amount: \$10,000.00

Start Date: 4/1/2021

End Date: 12/31/2021

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.*

Palo Verde College seeks to support the needs of the PVC Vocational Nursing Program by assisting with travel to clinical sites. As Palo Verde College is located in Blythe, California, nursing students are required to travel to JFK Hospital in Indio and La Paz Regional Hospital in Parker, Arizona in order to perform their hands-on clinical experience which is needed for graduation and Licensure. Right now, there is a reduced workforce due to the shortage of vocational nurses in our hospitals and clinical settings due to COVID-19. Palo Verde College has one of the few programs that has remained open during the pandemic, and with this grant it would allow our nursing students to complete their clinical rotations and enter the workforce.

Students also have a hard time paying for the licensure exam due to the cost, and they sometimes postpone the exam until they have enough funds. This grant will also assist our students with the licensure exam to enable students to enter the workforce right after reaching educational goals. Students will be able to cover the cost of their exam, enabling them to take the exam right after completion of their coursework.

Locally, our nursing home and hospital in Blythe are short staffed and not able to recruit during the pandemic. Our nursing students will be able to help with this critical shortage in Blythe, as well as the shortages throughout Riverside County.

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.*

The Palo Verde College Vocational Nursing Program is a 3 semester or 1 1/2 year program, providing a skilled nursing workforce for Southern California Hospitals and medical offices and centers. The current vocational nursing program is in their second of three semesters and will soon begin to need to travel out of the are of Blythe, California to gain their practical experience. Students will need to travel Indio, California and Parker Arizona to gain the necessary experience in hospital settings. This means that students will have the need to cover expenses such as gas and hotels in order to complete their weekly clinical rotations. Since this is a full-time program, students are not able to currently work as their coursework takes up to 5 days per week. These students are set to finish their program in December 2021. Once completed they will take their licensure exam and be able to enter the workforce at a time when nurses are needed the most. The pandemic has created a need for vocational nurses to enter the workforce at a time when most nursing programs are closed due to the pandemic. Our nursing students have continued their program and this grant will help to assist them with timely completion without the burdensome cost of travel to their clinical sites.

once students complete their coursework and clinical requirements, they will be able to take the licensure exam and enter the workforce.

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 a continuation of a program. However, our nursing program students usually raise the funds needed to travel to clinical sites. Due to the pandemic, their ability to fundraise and cover the travel and hotel fees has been greatly impacted due to COVID-19. This grant will allow the students to focus ion their coursework and completion of their educational goals, while removing the burdensome cost of traveling during the pandemic.

If funds are remaining, students will be able to use those funds to help offset the cost of the licensure exam. This will allow for timely complete of their licensure exam.

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

Funds will be used to pay for travel and hotel expenses for Vocational nursing students to attend clinical rotations at JFK Hospital in Indio and La Paz Regional Hospital in Parker Arizona.

Geographical Area Served

Blythe: (included in RAP Foundation geographic funding area)

Population Served

Adults (25-64 years old); Healthcare workforce

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

25

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

Evaluation

Once students are able to travel to clinical sites, they will be able to complete their program and enter the workforce. We will be able to measure the success of the program by following the students to ensure that they have successfully enter the workforce once they have completed their coursework and pass their licensure exam.