

INDIAN WELLS CITY COUNCIL

November 6, 2025



To: City Council
From: City Manager Department
Prepared by: Catherine Manning, Management Assistant
Subject: **Grants-in-Aid Committee Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2025-26 Program Funding**

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Council **APPROVES** Grants-in-Aid Committee funding recommendations totaling \$160,000 for the organizations listed in this staff report for Fiscal Year 2025-26; and

AUTHORIZES and **DIRECTS** the City Manager to execute contracts for same; and

FINDS the action exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review under CEQA guidelines section 15061(b)(3).

BACKGROUND:

The City of Indian Wells recognizes the vital role that community-based organizations and groups play in delivering essential services throughout the Coachella Valley. To support these efforts, the City established the Grants-in-Aid program, which provides financial assistance during years of budgetary surplus.

To ensure thoughtful and equitable distribution of these funds, the City formed the Grants-in-Aid Committee ("Committee"), composed of a diverse group of informed and dedicated residents. The Committee is responsible for reviewing and analyzing funding requests submitted by eligible organizations and making annual funding recommendations to the City Council during surplus years.

Funding for the Grants-in-Aid Program is reviewed annually during the City Council's budget process. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2017-04, the annual allocation for community assistance is limited to twenty-five percent (25%) of the prior fiscal year's General Fund Net Change in Fund Balance. This amount is calculated using year-end estimates developed during the final quarter of the fiscal year and is further limited by a maximum cap of \$160,000 per year.

In practical terms, the City must realize a minimum surplus of \$640,000 in the General Fund to authorize the full \$160,000 program allocation. Although the audit for Fiscal Year 2024–25 is still being finalized, preliminary estimates indicate the City’s surplus will substantially exceed the \$640,000 threshold. Therefore, consistent with City policy, the maximum annual allocation of \$160,000 is approved for the Fiscal Year 2025–26 Grants-in-Aid Program.

DISCUSSION:

In August, the City hosted an educational session for interested organizations to learn about the Grants-in-Aid program. During the session, staff provided an overview of the program guidelines and application process and responded to questions from attendees.

The Grants-in-Aid program offers funding opportunities to tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations classified under Section 501(c)(3) that have been in operation for at least five years. Funding is intended to support community assistance and services benefiting Coachella Valley. Eligible requests may include:

- Expansion of existing service programs
- Introduction of new services or special projects
- Purchase of specific items essential to service delivery (excluding start-up costs)

Program funds may not be used for staffing or salaries, fundraising activities, sponsorships, start-up costs, or administrative/overhead expenses.

The Grants-in-Aid Committee reviewed all submitted applications to ensure compliance with program guidelines and to evaluate each funding request. On October 22, 2025, the Committee convened to discuss recommendations for 37 applications totaling \$431,275.38 in requested funding. Following a thorough review, the Committee recommends funding 26 of the 37 applicants, for a total allocation of \$160,000.00.

Recommended Organizations for Funding:

The Grants-in-Aid Committee recommends the City Council allocate the \$160,000 in available funding to the following organizations:

Alzheimer’s Coachella Valley: recommended funding of **\$5,000** for the expansion of the flagship program, Club Journey. This program is designed to address the needs of individuals and caregivers affected by Alzheimer’s and Dementia.

American Friends of our Armed Forces: recommended funding of **\$2,500** for the Adopt-a-Marine program for Thanksgiving.

Assistance League Coachella Valley: recommended funding of **\$10,000** for the Operation School Bell Program, to provide clothes, shoes, hygiene products, backpacks, school supplies, bedding, and food to Coachella Valley students.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: recommended funding of **\$5,000** for improving youth mental health through mentoring.

Boys and Girls Club of Palm Springs: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to update membership and operational platform to MyClubHub.

California Scottish Rite Foundation: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the Speech-Language Therapy Program at the RiteCare Childhood Language Center of Coachella Valley.

Caravanserai – Alliance for Entrepreneurs: recommended funding of **\$3,000** to support the BizUp Neurodiverse Entrepreneurs Program, which provides bilingual support to 15 neurodiverse youth, adults, and their families in the Coachella Valley.

Coachella Valley Housing Coalition: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the After-School Program to increase opportunities for local, low-income, at-risk children and youth to engage in educational, recreational and leadership activities.

Coachella Valley Youth Foundation – First Tee: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the East Valley Expansion, to support low-income families with limited access to recreation programs.

Desert Arc: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support three of the social micro-enterprise programs: Landscape Maintenance, Shredding & Recycling, and Janitorial Services.

Family Services of the Desert - Food Now: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support the Fuel for Success Program: Weekend Meals for Hungry Kids.

Family YMCA of the Desert: recommended funding of **\$2,500** to support after school programs where kids will learn valuable social, emotional and motor skills through doing science and art projects.

Friends of the Desert Mountains: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the environmental education programs throughout the Coachella Valley.

Galilee Center: recommended funding of **\$25,000** to support the Galilee Center Homeless Prevention Program for Eastern Coachella Valley.

Habitat for Humanity: recommended funding of **\$10,000** to support the Housing Prevention Program for low-income Coachella Valley residents, which provides a multi-layered approach to achieving and sustaining home ownership and reducing risks of housing and financial insecurity for low-income households.

John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the Ambassador leadership Team of the Ophelia Project.

Operation Safe House: recommended funding of **\$7,500** to support the Harrison House Transitional Living and Permanent Supportive Housing Program for older homeless youth ages 18-24 in Coachella Valley.

Read With Me Volunteer Programs: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to provide books for elementary school children struggling to read and comprehend English in the Coachella Valley.

Refuge Pregnancy Center: recommended funding of **\$2,900** to support the Nurturing Body, Mind, and Baby Program, a 12-season prenatal education series designed to empower expectant mothers throughout their pregnancy journey.

Riverside County Foundation on Aging: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support a program containing three components designed to enhance food security and meaningful nutrition support for older adults in need.

Shay's Warriors Life after Cancer: recommended funding of \$ **5,000** to expand outreach, provide scholarships for the annual retreat, and sustain monthly programming.

SongShine Foundation: recommended funding of **\$2,500** to support the Arts in Healthcare Program, and for the annual spring musical - featuring a cast of class participation who face the effects of Parkinson's, stroke, myasthenia gravis and aging voices.

Tools for Tomorrow: recommended funding of **\$5,100** to support three 4-week sessions of a Creative Club Program at the Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert.

United Cerebral Palsy of the Inland Empire: recommended funding of **\$4,000** to support the Para-Karate Program for individuals with disabilities to excel in a competitive sport environment proving they can live their life without limits.

Variety Children's Charity of the Desert: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the Care, Freedom, Future, and Outreach Programs. Variety Children's Charity of the Desert serves children aged 0-18 of all backgrounds and abilities.

Voices for Children: recommended funding of **\$5,000** to support the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program in the Coachella Valley. The program provides Coachella Valley children with foster care with comprehensive, individualized advocacy.

Each organization that will receive funding is required to execute a Funding Agreement with the City documenting the authorized use of funds and will, at the conclusion of the Fiscal Year, provide the City with a report on how the funds were utilized and the impact those dollars had on the organization and the community it serves.

OPTIONS:

Council options:

1. Approve the Grants-in-Aid Committee's recommendation to allocate Grants-in-Aid funding as outlined in this staff report; or
2. Provide alternative direction.

FISCAL IMPACT:

No supplemental appropriation is required. The Grants-in-Aid program recommends the full \$160,000 in funds already allocated within the Fiscal Year 2025-26 adopted budget.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):

The action is not a project within the meaning of Section 15378 of the State of California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Guidelines, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change in the environment, directly or indirectly; and that the action is nonetheless exempt from the requirements of CEQA in that the activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. (14 CCR 15061(b)(3).)

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Funding Allocation Spreadsheet