



2020 Annual Report

History

For the past decade, the CARES Foundation has been committed to improving the health of the greater Sacramento region by providing leadership and grant funding to mission-oriented and well-managed organizations that work with a variety of at-risk populations to prevent the spread of HIV and to treat People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH). Since its inception in 2011, the CARES Foundation has awarded 58 grants, totaling nearly \$10.2M, to support 15 local agencies.

2020 Grants

In 2020, the CARES Foundation granted nearly \$1.6M to 10 organizations for programs aimed at meeting the Foundation's priorities of HIV Prevention; Filling Gaps in Supportive Services; HIV Testing and Linkage to Care; HIV Education and Training; and Innovative Projects Addressing HIV.

COVID-19 Response

Soon after the 2020 grant programs were underway, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, creating unprecedented challenges for both the CARES Foundation and its grantees. In response, the Foundation partnered with each agency to provide additional leadership and support to address the unique programmatic issues facing them. The CARES Foundation worked creatively with grantees to restructure work plans and budgets to allow for each agency to safely serve as many clients as possible.

To adjust service delivery models during the pandemic, several organizations were able to distribute HIV test kits, sterile syringes, injection resources, and sexual health risk reduction supplies through home delivery or satellite distributors. Other agencies were able to provide remote HIV/STI testing and direct services to clients through street outreach at homeless camps and community settings.

Grantees also created temporary structures outside their agency to safely provide services such as syringe distribution and HIV/STI testing. Many organizations created a variety of virtual programming such as telemedicine visits; patient education; provider trainings; mental health group counseling; peer support groups; and HIV prevention classes for high school, middle school, and alternative education students.

Overall, with the help of the CARES Foundation leadership, the grantees persevered and were able to keep their agencies open at reduced capacity and provide direct services with adequate physical distancing throughout 2020. The following summary captures the broad reaching outcomes accomplished by our grantees throughout 2020.

2020 CARES Foundation Grantees Summary of Outcomes

Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH) – HIV Education, Testing and Outreach

- Women in the sex work industry, including those who inject drugs, were provided HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) health information, condoms, safer injection supplies, and Pre-and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP) education
- HIV testing, peer mentoring, and training about HIV/STI risks, personal empowerment and negotiation skills, were provided
- Case management was provided to women living with HIV to secure medical care and basic needs

Central Valley AIDS Education and Training Center (CAETC) – HIV-Methamphetamine Task Force

- Community resources about treatment protocols for PLWH, methamphetamine use and mental health disorders were developed and distributed to medical clinics and through online curriculum

FREED Center for Independent Living – HIV/AIDS Options Program (HOP)

- PLWH received support services such as transportation, housing, mental healthcare, monthly support group and financial assistance for basic life necessities to support their HIV medical care

Gender Health Center (GHC) – HIV Prevention, Intervention, Education and Linkage to Care

- HIV/STI and Hepatitis C tests, linkage to care, and patient navigation services were provided to transgender and gender non-conforming individuals
- Sterile syringes were distributed and returned to GHC for disposal

Harm Reduction Services (HRS) – Project Reach

- Sterile syringes, education about safer injection practices, risk reduction supplies, and biohazard sharps containers were provided to People who Inject Drugs (PWID)
- Used syringes were returned to HRS for disposal and community clean ups were conducted
- Referrals were provided for medical, social and substance use treatment services
- Overdose prevention training and naloxone kit refills were provided to reverse overdoses
- Street Outreach and Testing Services -
- Individuals received street outreach, risk reduction supplies, HIV and HCV tests and risk reduction education
- UC Davis physician services were provided through Street Medicine Clinic

One Community Health (OCH) - The HIV/AIDS Prevention Coalition

- Out-of-care PLWH were reengaged in HIV medical care and virally suppressed HIV patients were enrolled in program aimed at achieving viral suppression
- PLWH attended support group and were provided non-medical case management to learn strategies to remain in medical care and maintain medication regimen
- HIV, throat and rectal Chlamydia (CT) and Gonorrhea (CG) tests were conducted and newly diagnosed patients were linked to medical care
- Clients were referred to PrEP and PEP services
- PLWH were enrolled in Housing Assistance Program and provided behavioral health and case management services to assist with medical care and viral suppression efforts

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (PPMM) – HIV/STI Prevention Program

- High school and middle school students received classroom education and peer education on social media about HIV/STI prevention, treatment, stigma, and healthcare access
- Youth and young adults ages 16-25 (youth) received HIV/STI education in non-traditional settings, community events and social media
- Youth received HIV/STI education through community events
- Digital Learning Advisory (DLA) youth leadership group created virtual HIV/STI prevention content
- Student post-tests showed identification of STI/HIV testing sites; treatment options; PrEP and PEP access; and safer sexual practices to reduce HIV/STI risk

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) – PrEP Navigation Program

- Patients received sexual health and risk reduction education (including PrEP and PEP) through Sacramento County Sexual Health Clinic
- Patients received behavioral, social and healthcare benefit services to initiate PrEP and received support services to increase compliance with follow up appointments
- Tests were conducted for throat and rectal CG and CT

Sacramento LGBT Center – HIV Prevention and LGBT Health Equity Program

- HIV tests were conducted and patients who tested positive and were linked to HIV care
- Post-test counseling and PrEP and PEP referrals were provided to clients who tested negative for HIV
- Condoms, lubricants and receptive barriers were distributed
- Support groups were held with PLWH to discuss HIV issues and challenges
- Cultural humility education-training sessions were provided to health professionals

Wind Youth Services – HIV Street Education Project

- Youth experiencing homelessness were educated about HIV/STIs and provided with safer sex supplies
- Youth participated in educational workshops at Wind's Drop-In Center; engaged in rapid HIV testing; and were provided with safer sex education
- Youth reported a greater understanding of HIV/STIs, transmission and prevention
- Youth were provided with case management and materials to attain medical insurance and care