



2021 Annual Report

History

For the past decade, the CARES Foundation has been committed to improving the health of the Sacramento region by providing leadership and grant funding to sustainable, well-managed organizations with a demonstrated ability to have an impact on HIV and work with a variety of at-risk populations to prevent the spread of HIV and to treat People Living with HIV (PLWH).

Since its inception in 2011, the CARES Foundation has awarded 94 grants totaling over \$12.6 million to support 18 community organizations and local agencies.

2021 Grants

In 2021, the CARES Foundation granted over \$1.2 million to ten organizations for programs aimed at meeting the Foundation's strategic funding priorities of 1) HIV Prevention; 2) Filling Gaps in Supportive Services; 3) HIV Testing and Linkage to Care; 4) HIV Education and Training; and 5) 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. These challenges persisted through 2021. In response, the Foundation partnered with each agency to provide additional leadership and support to address the unique programmatic issues they were facing. 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.

Through innovative service delivery models during the COVID-19 pandemic, several organizations distributed HIV test kits, sterile syringes, injection resources, and sexual health risk reduction supplies through home delivery or satellite distributors. Other agencies provided 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 2021. The following summary captures the broad reaching outcomes accomplished by our 2021 grantees.

2021 CARES Foundation Grantees Summary of Accomplishments

In 2021, CARES Foundation funding was awarded to ten grantees to implement programs to serve various high-risk, vulnerable, and historically underserved target populations. A summary of accomplishments for each grantee follows:

Central Valley AIDS Education and Training Center (CAETC) - Elica Health PrEP Mobile Clinic

- Target population: Prescribers, nurses, and medical assistants
- Needs Assessment conducted to understand barriers to prescribing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)
- PrEP community resource list posted on AETC website and PrEP pocket guide developed for providers
- Regional PrEP symposium held with providers to increase PrEP integration in clinical settings

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

- Target population: women in sex work industry
- HIV/Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) education, safer sex, and injection supply distribution
- Pre-and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP) education and referrals
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination referrals
- HIV/STI testing, peer mentoring, and personal empowerment and negotiation skills training
- Non-medical case management to women living with HIV to secure medical care and survival needs

CommuniCare Health Centers (CCHC) - PrEP Clinic

- Target Population: Yolo County residents at higher risk for HIV
- HIV testing and linkage to care
- PrEP education and prescriptions including mental health screenings
- HPV vaccinations

Golden Rule Services - PrEP Navigation and Non-Medical Case Management

- Target population: People of Color, Men who have sex with Men, and transgender people
- HIV/STI testing, prevention education, and linkage to care
- Outreach to increase engagement in HIV prevention, treatment, and support services
- PrEP referrals, linkage to care, and medication adherence follow up

Harm Reduction Services (HRS) - Project Reach

- Target population: People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) or are unhoused
- Risk reduction education and distribution of sterile syringes and biohazard sharps containers
- Collection of used syringes through disposal at HRS, outreach, and community clean ups
- Referrals for medical, social, and substance use treatment services
- Overdose prevention training and naloxone kits to reverse overdoses
- Street outreach, including HIV/STI/HCV testing, risk reduction education, and supply distribution
- Street Medicine Clinic in coordination with UC Davis medical students

One Community Health (OCH) - HIV Prevention Coalition

- Target population: Black or Latinx, transgender, and nonbinary people
- HIV testing and linkage to care
- Outreach to out-of-care PLWH to re-engage in HIV medical care and reach viral suppression
- PrEP navigation and medication adherence follow up

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

- Target population: youth and young adults
- Development of HIV/STI prevention material by Digital Learning Advisory (DLA) youth leadership
- Prevention education including testing sites, treatment options, PrEP/PEP, and risk reduction strategies
- Peer education on social media about HIV/STI prevention, treatment, stigma, and healthcare access

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) – PrEP Navigation Program

- Target population: people who are low-income, underinsured, communities of color, LGBTQ+
- Sexual health risk reduction education through Sexual Health Clinic including PrEP and PEP
- Support services and access to healthcare benefits to initiate PrEP and increase follow up compliance
- HIV/STI and PrEP panel home test kit distribution

Sacramento LGBT Community Center – Health and Wellness Program

- Target population: LGBTQ+ community, people of color, youth, and young adults
- HIV/STI testing, referral, and linkage of those testing positive to medical care and case manager
- Post-test counseling including PrEP and PEP referrals
- Distribution of sexual health risk reduction supplies
- Latinx Leadership Council to increase awareness of HIV and decrease its rate in brown communities
- Support group with PLWH to discuss HIV issues, challenges, and community resources
- PrEP, PEP education sessions with health professionals to increase prescriptions and treatment

Wind Youth Services – HIV/STI Education Project

- Target population: unhoused youth and young adults
- HIV/STI prevention education and distribution of safer sex and substance use supplies
- Rapid HIV testing
- Case management and assistance with medical benefits and access to medical care

For further information about quantitative year end metrics for 2021 CARES Foundation grants, please contact Lili Carbone Joy, the Foundation's consultant for grants management services, at lcjcs@sbcglobal.net.