



2022 Annual Report

History

For over a decade, the CARES Foundation has been committed to improving the health of the greater Sacramento region by providing grants and leadership to reduce the spread of HIV; and to provide treatment and support services for People Living with HIV (PLWH).

The Foundation partners with mission-oriented organizations that work with a variety of higher risk populations to reduce the impact of HIV and associated co-occurring conditions. Since its inception in 2011, the Foundation has awarded 105 grants, totaling over \$12.8M, to support 19 agencies. The Foundation's Board of Directors is actively involved in the grant giving and management processes and continues to steer the Foundation to further its impact on the community by ending the HIV epidemic.

COVID-19 Response

Soon after the grant programs were underway in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit which created unprecedented challenges for both the CARES Foundation and its grantees. These challenges persisted through 2021 and 2022.

In response, the Foundation partnered with grantees to pivot workplans and budgets to create and support innovative service delivery models, such as distribution of HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) test kits and risk reduction supplies through home delivery and increased satellite distributors for unhoused people. In addition, there were increases in direct services through street outreach and mobile medical clinics. A variety of virtual programming were created for services such as HIV/STI prevention education; provider trainings; mental health counseling; and peer support groups.

Many of these innovative approaches have been effective and remained part of programming even as the public health crisis has lessened. Other services, such as risk reduction supply distribution, health education, peer support groups, moved from home, virtual or satellite back to in person for greater client connection and increased impact of services.

2022 Grantees: Summary of Accomplishments

In 2022, the CARES Foundation granted over \$1.2M for programs aimed at meeting the Foundation's 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.

The \$1.2M CARES Foundation funding was awarded to 10 grantees to implement programs to provide HIV prevention, treatment and support services to a variety of high-risk, vulnerable, and historically underserved populations. A summary of accomplishments and target populations for each 2022 grantee follows:

Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH) - HIV/STI Program

Target population: women involved in sex work industry

- HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and prevention education
- Risk reduction services including safer sex and injection supply distribution
- Peer mentoring, personal empowerment and negotiation skills training
- Client navigation for women living with HIV to secure access to medical, housing and basic living needs
- Pre-and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP/PEP) education and referral recommendations
- Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) education, vaccination referrals and follow up

CommuniCare Health Centers (CCHC) - Prevention Navigator Integration

Target Population: Yolo County residents at higher risk for HIV

- Staff training for rapid HIV/Syphilis testing, counseling, health disparities in LGBTQ+ communities, PrEP, trauma-informed patient education and HIV Support Advocate roles
- HIV testing, linkage to care and client follow up
- HIV Prevention Navigator patient visits through CCHC Mobile Medical Clinic
- HPV vaccinations and patient follow up
- Support group for People Living with HIV (PLWH)
- Stocking of PrEP injectable at CCHC pharmacy
- Community HIV/STI testing events

Golden Rule Services - PrEP Navigation Services (PNS)

Target population: People of color; men who have sex with men (MSM); transgender people

- Online PrEP campaign launched
- PNS client contacts for HIV/STI testing, prevention education and linkage to care
- PNS client PrEP care plan development and oversight

Harm Reduction Services (HRS) - Project Reach

Target populations: People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and people who 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 kit distribution
- 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 populations: Black and Latinx men, transgender women, and people incarcerated in rural county

- HIV testing and linkage to medical care and support services
- Outreach to out-of-care PLWH to re-engage in HIV medical care and reach viral suppression
- Sexual health education and risk reduction including PrEP/PEP
- PrEP navigation and medication adherence follow up

Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) – PrEP Navigation Program

Target populations: people who are low-income, underinsured, communities of color, LGBTQ+

- Sexual health risk reduction education, including PrEP and PEP, through Sexual Health Clinic
- Support services to access health benefits, initiate PrEP and increase medication compliance
- Quarterly HIV/STI screening for PrEP patients
- HPV vaccination screening and follow up
- HIV/STI and PrEP panel home test kit distribution

Sacramento LGBT Center – Health and Wellness Program

Target populations: LGBTQIA community, people of color, youth and young adults

- HIV/STI testing, referral and linkage to medical care and case management
- Post-test counseling including risk reduction education, PrEP and PEP referrals
- Distribution of sexual health risk reduction supplies
- Distribution of substance use risk reduction supplies including Fentanyl strips and Narcan nasal sprays
- Support group for PLWH to discuss HIV issues, challenges and community resources
- PrEP, PEP educational sessions with health professionals to increase prescriptions

Safer Alternatives thru Networking and Exchange (SANE) – Syringe Services Program (SSP)

Target populations: People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and people who are unhoused

- Syringe exchange client contacts, risk reduction education and supply distribution
- Collection and disposal of used syringes
- Client referrals for medical, legal, medication assisted treatment (MAT), PrEP and support services
- HIV testing and recruitment in serosurvey study
- Homeless encampment resident survey to assess needs and provide risk reduction supplies
- Development of daily delivery schedule and routes for homeless encampment sites

Sunburst Projects – HIV/STI Education, Outreach and Prevention

Target populations: Low income adults, children and families living with or at high risk of HIV

- HIV/STI testing and linkage to care with prevention education and provision of resource information
- PrEP/PEP education, provision of PrEP 7-day starter pack, referrals for continuation of PrEP services
- Community events outreach and distribution of risk reduction supplies
- Increased referral partnerships with other service providers
- Established clinic rooms for HIV/STI testing and received HIV/STI staff certification
- Social media campaign and radio public service announcements to promote HIV/STI testing

For cumulative quantitative outcomes across 2022 grants, please contact Lili Carbone Joy, who provides grants management support for the Foundation, at lcjcs@sbcglobal.net.