



San Francisco Department of Public Health

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City and County of San Francisco
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDS \$5.25M IN GRANTS FOR COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Grant program funds Community-Based Organizations that can best serve populations and neighborhoods with greatest disparities in COVID-19 case rates.

San Francisco, CA – Today, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, in partnership with the San Francisco Public Health Foundation, announced the results of a \$5.25 million grant program to provide culturally responsive services to neighborhoods and populations most impacted by COVID-19. Ten Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and their partners will be funded for COVID-19 community prevention, mitigation, and wellness programs. Funded activities include focused outreach, mobile test site support, case investigation and contact tracing (CI/CT), community care for COVID-19 positive individuals, and the development of a community-based CI/CT training center.

During this pandemic, CBOs have supported San Francisco's most vulnerable communities. SFDPH values the expertise of these organizations, as they are rooted in the community and know how to best serve the diverse populations in the City. Trust is crucial to effective COVID-19 outreach, care, and prevention services and to address stigma.

"We are grateful and excited to work with our valued partner organizations who are best at supporting and engaging with San Francisco's most vulnerable communities," said Dr. Grant Colfax, Director of Public Health. "Working together, we will serve populations and neighborhoods that have been disparately impacted by COVID-19."

This funding program is part of SFDPH's equity strategy to focus on populations and neighborhoods that have the greatest disparities in COVID-19 case rates, with a goal of preventing and decreasing the transmission and severity of the disease. The two service categories funded include I) Community Outreach and Care and II) Community Case Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT) Training Center.

The Community Outreach and Care Teams will use a person-centered, culturally and



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linguistically competent approach to provide harm reduction-based, low barrier, wrap-around services within their communities.

- Prevention and risk-reduction outreach, health education, and promotion, appropriate messaging, provision of vaccine (flu or COVID) as requested and distribution of facial coverings.
- Community mobile testing support: participant registration, pre- and post-test counseling, linkage to needed services, care packages with PPE, hand sanitizer, and clear information about isolation and quarantine options.
- Supportive after-care services and case management for people who have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Peer-focused services that hire and support people from the community. Peer workers will be meaningfully compensated with a living wage determined by the CBOs.

Below is a list of the organizations that will be awarded and their listed partners:

- **Bayview:** Rafiki Coalition for Health and Wellness
Partners: Young Community Developers, Bayview YMCA, Facente Consulting, and others to be determined.
- **Excelsior:** Mission Neighborhood Health Center
Partners: Excelsior Works, Mission Housing Development Corporation, and YMCA
- **Visitacion Valley:** Family and Child Empowerment Services – San Francisco (FACESSF)
Partners: Bayview Child Health Center and Willie Brown Youth Center
- **Mission:** Mission Language and Vocational School
Partners: Latino Task Force (LTF collaborative includes over 30 organizations)
- **Tenderloin:** San Francisco Community Health Center
Partners: SF AIDS Foundation and Curry Senior Center
- **OMI:** Southwest Community Corporation
Partners: Catholic Charities, Youth First, African American Early Educators, Invest Black, Community Technology Center, Bishop Housing, Community Music Center, Project Open Hand, YMCA Bayview, Resilient OMI (NEN), Colors, Community Youth Organization, UCSF, Legal Assistance for the Elderly, SF Homeownership, Always Active, Wise Health, SF Neighborhood Center Together, and OMICC
- **Chinatown:** Chinese Hospital
Partners: Self Help for the Elderly and NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
- **Potrero:** YMCA Urban Services
Partners: Community Awareness Resource Entity (CARE) and Bridge Housing
- **Western Addition:** Booker T. Washington Community Service Center



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Partners: Collective Impact, Maxine Hall Health Center, The SF Brown Bombers,
and New Community Leadership Foundation

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation will be funded to provide service category two, a Community Case Investigation/Contact Tracing Training Center. This effort will scale up the current SFDPH training and onboarding process to strengthen and expand case investigation, contact tracing, and isolation and quarantine (I&Q) with culturally competent and linguistically concordant staff from CBOs. This includes organizing and providing training to CBO staff from multiple organizations, engaging other CBOs to be a part of the training effort, and developing curriculum under SFDPH COVID-19 guidelines.

This \$5.25 million community grant is part of SFDPH's and the City's larger COVID-19 response investments which include: health operations; housing and shelter programs; food insecurity and human services; and emergency communications and operations. In September 2020, Mayor Breed announced \$28.5 million to support COVID-19 community response efforts for San Francisco's Latino population across multiple areas. This grant will fulfill a portion of that allocation, given that the Latino community represents 45% of current COVID-19 cases.

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