

LOCAL NEWS

\$225,000 in grants awarded by Guillermo J. Valenzuela Foundation

By **STAFF REPORT** ||

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Dr. Guillermo J. Valenzuela is the founder of the Guillermo J. Valenzuela Foundation, which recently awarded \$225,000 in grants. (Photo by Michael Fisher, Guillermo J. Valenzuela Foundation)



The Guillermo J. Valenzuela Foundation recently announced that it has awarded \$225,000 in grants to nine community organizations to help provide relief during the coronavirus pandemic.

Now in its fifth year, the foundation's goal for 2020 was to be responsive to the needs of its community partners related to the pandemic and calls for racial justice, according to a news release. Because of that, it awarded this year's grants several months earlier than in past years.

“In the midst of these challenging times, it is impressive to see how our grantees are continuing to adapt by adjusting their services in real time to meet the evolving and expanding needs of their clients, patients and students,” Dr. Guillermo J. Valenzuela, a longtime Inland Empire physician who established the foundation in 2015, said in the news release.

“Each and every one of these groups has been nimble in responding to changing conditions to ensure that they are continuing to deliver vital services to those in need.”

To help support community organizations quickly, the foundation made a \$25,000 contribution to the Inland Empire Funders Alliance Rapid Response Fund, managed by the Inland Empire Community Foundation, to help support nonprofits providing services in San Bernardino and Riverside counties in response to the pandemic.

The foundation also awarded general operating grants to Catholic Charities San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, Desert Sanctuary Inc. in Barstow, El Sol Neighborhood Educational Center in San Bernardino, Inland Behavioral and Health Services Inc., OneFuture Coachella Valley, Reach Out, Southern California Public Radio and Time for Change Foundation in San Bernardino.

“We are grateful to the Valenzuela Foundation for trusting our work and providing additional support this year,” Vanessa Perez, director of Time for Change Foundation, said in the news release.

“Some women who have become self-sufficient through our housing program from previous years have lost their jobs due to COVID and have reached out seeking basic support to maintain housing for their families. Receiving this grant early allows us to respond to our clients' needs in a timely manner,” Perez said.

The foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in grants since its launch in 2015, according to the news release.

The Guillermo J. Valenzuela Foundation is dedicated to improving the health of underserved communities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. It works to expand access to health care and improve care through research, education, grants, programs and partnerships.

Its priorities include women's health and increasing the number of medical providers in the Inland Empire.

For information, go to valenzuelafoundation.org.



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