



2019 Annual Report

The CARES Foundation is committed to improving the health of the Sacramento Region by providing grants to organizations to prevent the spread of HIV and treat People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH). Unlike other chronic diseases, HIV is unique. Not only must we ensure access to care for every patient, but we need to prevent transmission to others. Therefore, HIV testing and education are major areas of focus.

While the Foundation values innovation, our focus for grant-making is on service organizations that are stable, well-managed and have a demonstrated ability to impact HIV. The CARES Foundation was pleased to provide 2019 grant funds to 9 organizations for 11 unique programs aimed at meeting the Foundation's priorities. Highlights of each grant's accomplishments follow:

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

- Over 450 people in the sex worker industry received HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) health information, condoms and Pre-and Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and (PEP) education
- Close to 50 women received HIV testing and peer mentoring, and over 60 women attended classroom training about HIV/STI risks, personal empowerment and negotiation skills
- Case management was provided to several HIV+ women to keep them in medical care and securing housing
- An HIV Prevention Toolkit was developed to provide training to organizations serving high risk populations

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

- Critical support services to keep PLWH in medical care were provided to close to 40 PLWH and their families
- Case management; housing assistance; independent living skills training; assistive technology training; health and safety home modification; and peer mentoring were provided to over 20 PLWH

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

- Close to 500 HIV/STI tests were conducted for transgender and gender non-conforming persons
- GHC became a State Office of AIDS Syringe Exchange Certified Program and distributed over 350,000 sterile syringes with over 50% used syringes collected
- GHC worked with community partners to increase access to substance abuse treatment

Harm Reduction Services (HRS) – Project Reach

- Close to 2,000 clients received street outreach including HIV/Hepatitis C testing, supplies and education
- Close to 7,000 survival supplies were distributed to meet food, warmth and hygiene needs
- Over 400 HIV/STI tests were conducted with all positive cases linked to medical care
- Over 650 individuals received risk reduction education during HIV/STI testing or syringe distribution service and committed to a minimum of 1 risk reduction activity
- Over 2 million sterile syringes were distributed through over 25,000 encounters to over 3,000 individuals, 65% of whom received referrals to medical, housing or substance abuse treatment
- Over 500 community clean ups were conducted and the return rate for used syringes increased to 48%

Life Enriching Communications (LEC) – Heart to Heart Program

- HIV/STI education, abuse prevention and skill building sessions were provided to over 700 high school and middle school students and over 300 school staff in El Dorado County
- Between 80% and 90% of students and staff reported an increase in knowledge about HIV/STIs; testing resources; healthy sexual behaviors; and demonstrated healthy communication skills
- Teachers took liaison positions at Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) clubs at 3 high schools and over 50 new students were recruited to join

One Community Health - The HIV/AIDS Prevention Coalition

- Over 400 high risk PLWH who had fallen out of care were brought back into ongoing HIV medical care through close to 3,500 contacts with just under 900 individuals by One Community Health and its subcontractors, HRS and Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation (SFAF)
- Of close to 5,000 HIV tests conducted, over 80 HIV+ persons were found with 95% linked to medical care
- 50% of 100 virally unsuppressed HIV patients enrolled in program achieved viral suppression
- Close to 200 patients attended “My Care” groups at HRS to learn strategies to remain in care
- Over 800 tests for throat and rectal Chlamydia (CT) and Gonorrhea (CG) were conducted by One Community Health and 96% of positive patients were linked to care

Safer Alternatives thru Networking & Education (SANE) – Syringe Access Program (SAP) and Medication Assisted Treatment Program (MAT)

- SAP provided over 600,000 clean syringes through close to 1,500 contacts
- Close to 1,500 educational interactions were made with 500 referrals provided for medical and support services
- MAT enrolled over 20 People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) into substance abuse treatment
- Close to 300 contacts were made to MAT patients to provide education, support and referrals to medical, social and other services to keep them in treatment

Sacramento LGBT Center – HIV Prevention and LGBT Health Equity Program

- Over 200 HIV tests were conducted; and 40 clients were referred to PrEP providers
- Over 30,000 sexual barriers and close to 1,500 health education brochures were distributed
- PrEP and PEP education was provided to 70 health professionals and over 4,000 copies of educational material about biomedical HIV prevention strategies were distributed
- 7 trainings were provided to over 300 healthcare workers regarding LGBT cultural competency
- 6 sexual health educational workshops were provided to 250 youth

Wind Youth Services – HIV Street Education Project

- Over 500 youth experiencing homelessness were educated about HIV/STIs and provided with safer sex supplies, including over 200 youth who participated in educational workshops at Wind's Drop-In Center
- 100% of youth reported a greater understanding of HIV/STIs and how they're transmitted and prevented
- Case management was provided to over 300 homeless youth to access medical insurance benefits, with close to 90 youth accessed medical services and over 200 youth engaged in HIV testing