



To: HCBF Board of Directors  
From: HCBF Staff  
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2021  
Subject: Staff Memo - Funding Recommendations for HHCI (Item 2)

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## **INTRODUCTION**

In this memo, Staff present the funding recommendations for the Healthy Harbor Communities Initiative Grant Program (HHCI). Staff have discussed various funding scenarios with the HHCI ad hoc committee, and the proposals recommended for funding have been approved by the committee. Brief summaries of the projects have been included in this memo and also in [Attachment A](#).

## **BACKGROUND ON THE HHCI GRANT PROGRAM**

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, HCBF released the Request for Proposals for the Healthy Harbor Community Initiative Grant Program, with up to \$250,000 in available funding. Given the impacts of the pandemic and current needs of the community, there was a need for funding focused on public health. This health-focused grant round was also part of a larger strategy to research options for a larger HCBF collaborative, convening partners around a common issue, establishing new partnerships that benefit the communities of San Pedro and Wilmington, supporting ongoing collaborations, and bringing resources into the community.

In general, the purpose of the HHCI grant program is to address and mitigate the impacts of Port of Los Angeles and Port-related activity on the health and well-being of San Pedro and Wilmington residents. Therefore, applications were welcomed from any group or organization seeking to offset the impacts of port-related operations on the health and welfare of the surrounding communities.

For this grant round, we were looking for projects or programs designed to address the goals described above, but we were also interested in the priority funding areas listed below. However, applications were not limited to just these categories.

**Public Health** – monitoring health status & investigating health hazards to address environmental health problems; developing mechanisms for tracking disease; informing, educating, and engaging the community about environmental health issues or reducing exposure to disease, mobilizing community partnerships to address environmental health problems, other actions to improve and protect the health of the community or mitigate some port-related impacts.

**Healthcare/Clinical** – seek to improve and expand equitable access to and delivery of health services and care needed in the community (ex. screenings, disease management education, medication, etc.)

**Community-based participatory research** – opportunities to identify and reduce environmental health disparities in underserved communities as a result of port-related impacts or improving public health.

Applicants were also encouraged to consider the negative impacts from port operations on vulnerable groups, especially those living near the Port or port-related operations.

## **OVERVIEW OF APPLICATIONS**

Staff received 13 project proposals from different organizations, with a total requested amount of \$1,051,321 in funds. The table below provides an overview of the full project proposals that were received.

*Table 1: Overview of HHCI Submissions*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Priority Funding Area</b>	<b>Issue Being Addressed/ Focus Area</b>
<b>American Cancer Society (ACS)</b>	\$21,637	Public Health	cancer screenings, education; increasing awareness about local health services.
<b>Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation (BTCMF)</b>	\$26,062	Healthcare/Clinical; public health	Indoor air quality (providing air purifiers); flu shots (150); hand sanitizer refills; increasing awareness about local health services; and general respiratory health condition.
<b>IQAir Foundation</b>	\$219,142	Public Health	(indoor) air quality - classroom
<b>LA Walks</b>	\$30,000	Public Health; Community-based participatory research	Traffic safety/Safe Streets
<b>Lice Free Forever Charity</b>	\$25,000	Public Health	Lice (children)
<b>Memorial Medical Center Foundation/LBACA</b>	\$60,000	Public Health; Healthcare/clinical	asthma management; education (Children 0-18 yrs)
<b>Northeast Community Clinic (NECC)</b>	\$25,000	Healthcare/Clinical	Behavioral health screenings and management (12yr and older)
<b>Providence Little Company of Mary</b>	\$42,907	Public Health Healthcare/Clinical	Flu vaccinations (1380)
<b>SmartAirLA</b>	\$125,000	Public Health Healthcare/Clinical	asthma management; app based alerts; adult and children asthma patients
<b>South Bay Center for Counseling (SBCC)</b>	\$50,000	Public health	Community education, increase access to health screening, capacity building around individual level mitigation strategies.
<b>South Bay Family Health Care (SBFHC)</b>	\$200,000	Healthcare/Clinical	Early detection health screenings and care
<b>St. Mary Medical Center Foundation</b>	\$135,001	Healthcare/Clinical	Screenings, diagnostics, and health education to seniors and vulnerable adults with asthma and COPD.
<b>Wilmington Community of Schools-LAUSD</b>	\$100,000	Healthcare/Clinical	School-based asthma screenings and education
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,059,749</b>		

Staff reviewed the submitted project description, workplan, budget, and qualifications, and assessed the applications based on eligibility, relevance to port nexus, issues addressed, budget, and other factors. Please see **Attachment A** for further details on the applications by priority funding area and general project issue.

Staff also examined the overlap of the applications based on the issue areas discussed in the proposals. Table 2 presents the primary areas of focus and the organizations that addressed these topics in their proposal.

*Table 2: Overlap Analysis of Areas of Focus in HHCI Proposals*

<b>Primary Areas of Focus</b>	<b>Organizations/Proposals</b>
Healthcare access, outreach, & referrals	ACS, BTCMF; LBACA; NECC; SBCC; SBFHC; SmartAir; St. Mary
Asthma Intervention & Management	LBACA, SmartAirLA; Wilmington/LAUSD; St. Mary
Air Quality mitigation (indoor)	BTCMF; IQAir; SBCC (plants)
Chronic respiratory health conditions	BTCMF; Providence; St. Mary
Vaccinations (Flu and potentially COVID)	BTCMF; Providence
Behavioral health	NECC
Cancer screening	ACS
Traffic safety/Safe streets	LA Walks
Head lice in children	Lice Free Forever

As shown in Table 2, the emergent themes from this grant cycle include activities related to:

- Access to healthcare, referrals to services, and outreach to increase awareness about health-related services
- Asthma management interventions
- Air quality mitigations

A majority of the applications brought up issues related to poor air quality and how those with poor respiratory health conditions are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Vulnerable populations included: those with asthma, children, low-income households, other chronic health conditions; limited access to healthcare.

### **FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS & DISCUSSION**

Staff recommends funding the following applicants through the HHCI Program (Table 3), for a total of **\$251,638**.

*Table 3: HHCI Funding Recommendations*

<b>Applicants</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>
Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation	\$26,062	\$35,000
LBACA/Memorial Medical Center Foundation	\$60,000	\$60,000
St. Mary Medical Center Foundation	\$135,001	\$135,001
American Cancer Society (ACS)	\$21,637	\$21,637
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT RECOMMENDED:</b>		<b>\$251,638</b>

**Applicant:** Memorial Medical Center Foundation/LBACA

**Requested Funding:** \$60,000

**Recommended Funding:** \$60,000

**Purpose:** LBACA's Asthma Intervention, Education and Outreach Program will focus on enrolling 40 children (0-18 yrs) with uncontrolled asthma and their families (within SP and W). Focuses on improved healthcare delivery and quality; outreach; education support systems; healthy living environments; partnerships with other community organizations; and, influencing policy change at all levels to reduce the incidence of asthma. 3-4 in-home virtual visits; 2 air pollution health effects webinars/workshops with at least 30 participants.

**Justification:** This is strong program and they do great work in the community and are well connected. Their in-home visitation has been modified to follow COVID-19 safety measures. LBACA has been potentially recommended for another project as a portion of the remaining TraPac funding; however, since the administration for those funds are still being discussed among the appellants, Staff recommends LBACA be funded for this current project through the HHCI at this time, which focuses on expanding health care access and addressing asthma management issues.

**Applicant:** St. Mary Medical Center Foundation

**Requested Funding:** \$135,001

**Recommended Funding:** \$135,001

**Purpose:** Mobile Care Unit which provides respiratory health screenings, education, and virtual home visits to medically underserved communities in W and SP.

**Justification:** Strong and credible organizations serving the communities of Wilmington and San Pedro. focused on expanding health care access in vulnerable communities. Always have great experience working with them, and it's especially critical to have screenings now for those with chronic lung issues since they are more susceptible to COVID.

**Applicant:** Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation

**Requested Funding:** \$26,062

**Recommended Funding:** \$35,000

**Purpose:** BTCMF will improve the health and well-being of the Wilmington community by providing low-income residents with free air purifiers, hand sanitizer refills, and educational flyers highlighting additional local healthcare services. To maximize community impact, will partner with Providence Little Company of Mary Wellness and Activity Center, Harbor City Community Job Center, and A Needy Wilmington to ensure that residents have access to a full spectrum of care.

**Justification:** Strong and credible organizations serving the communities of Wilmington. Their work has always been a success and much completed with small funding amounts. Providing air purifiers to low income households will help to mitigate exposures to indoor air pollutants. This is a great program for a reasonable amount of funding. They have provided information on the air purifiers selected for this project and a draft screening survey to identify households to receive air purifiers. Need more information on recruitment and how outreach will occur.

**Applicant:** American Cancer Society

**Requested Funding:** \$21,637

**Recommended Funding:** \$21,637

**Purpose:** Establish medical neighborhood in the San Pedro/Wilmington area to improve access and care related to cancer by building partnerships to improve timely follow-up and treatment for those with abnormal screening results. ACS proposes to implement its East LA pilot project mode. Project will include convening of area clinical health providers and other clinical staff, and ACS will also recruit community leaders to educate the wider community on cancer, health care inequities, and develop effective public health interventions. ACS will also connect local agencies and residents to cancer related resources and other public health services. Will help identify access and care gaps.

**Justification:** Well-qualified to do education and community outreach on cancer preventative care and early detection education. HCBF has not funded projects addressing cancer related issues previously. If less people are going to a clinic/hospital to get cancer screening due to the pandemic, it might be important to have this program available for Wilmington and SP residents

Options for Remaining Funds

Please note that up to \$250,000 in PCMTF grant funds was approved for the HHCI program. There are also \$40,831 remaining funds that were allocated for Round 7 of the Community Benefit grant program (CBR7) to potentially roll over to this round. Therefore, **total available funding is \$290,831** (\$250,000 from HHCI<sub>7</sub> and \$40,831 in remaining CBR7 funds).

Therefore, Staff recommend the following options to be discussed by the Board:

1. Award full requested amount to American Cancer Society, LBACA, and St Mary.
2. Award \$35,000 to Buddhist Tzu Chi to provide air purifiers to 150 low-income households.
3. Award remaining funds (\$39,193) to St. Mary to extend services provided by the mobile care unit.

**NOT RECOMMENDED FOR HHCI FUNDING**

Staff also present the applications which are not recommended for funding within this program. It is important to note that the application not moving forward is not a reflection of the quality of the proposal and the work of the organization but more about HCBF’s priorities given the submitted applications and limited amount of remaining funds.

**Providence Little Company of Mary Foundation**

**Amount Requested:** \$42,907

**Purpose:** With HCBF funds, Providence will host 46 free flu vaccine clinics in underserved areas of Wilmington and San Pedro (and COVID vaccines if they become available during the funding period) in an effort to prevent the flu among residents who are at higher risk of developing respiratory diseases. Using the Mobile Clinic Unit, the goal is to provide 1,380 free flu shots to SP and W residents over a period of 23 weeks (flu season), supporting a healthy harbor community with respected and trusted health resources.

**Justification:** Proposed project is not a priority with PCMTF funds. It would be great if the COVID vaccine could be received due to the link between exposure to poor air quality and susceptibility to COVID, but uncertain how vaccine distribution will work at this time.

**SmartAirLA**

**Amount Requested:** \$125,000

**Purpose:** Partner with local health care orgs to enroll 500 asthma patients from SP/W who visited the ER due to asthma into the Asthma Alert program to reduce future asthma ER visits/hospitalizations. This is a 2yr program, where Yr2 will be scale up to community clinics and other community partners. The “Asthma Alert” will support preventive care, reduce patient no-shows, and strengthen clinical care for underserved asthma patients. Powered by real-time data analytics, the Alert provides asthma patients and their families with phone text messages to improve medication adherence and reduce pollution exposure during days of high asthma attack risk. The Alert also pinpoints pollution hotspots for asthma patients and their families to protect themselves from exposure.

**Justification:** While this is a very innovative project, but we are concerned about issues of access to technology within target community that is needed for this alert to be effective. They are doing several pilot projects throughout LA County; one of the sites is Long Beach, and they are proposing partnering with LBACA.

**IQAir Foundation**

**Amount Requested:** \$210,714

**Purpose:** Clean Air Program goal is to reduce exposure to air pollution indoors by providing air filtration for all early childcare providers and community centers in the cities of San Pedro and Wilmington, as well as five years of replacement filters (at 7 sites).

**Justification:** Not recommending under HHCI due to timing. With most schools and day care centers being closed right now, it does not make sense to fund IQAir with HHCI funds.

**Los Angeles Walks**

**Amount Requested:** \$30,000

**Purpose:** Proposing to create a Wilmington Community Crash Compendium to build a community-wide survey to gather data and stories on how port-related car crashes have impacted the health, safety and lives of their families and children. Will conduct surveys, and use story collection tools from Families for Safe Streets, a regional and national network of victim families. Findings from this survey will add to a growing bank of knowledge of port-related health impacts to health and utilize the data and stories to advocate for safer streets.

**Justification:** We like the idea of focusing on walkability and safer streets given the need in the community, but given that LA Walks was recently funded through CBR7 and we look forward to working with them, we are moving forward with other qualified applicants with HHCI funds due to limited funds and priorities for this program.

**South Bay Center for Counseling**

**Amount Requested:** \$50,000

**Purpose:** Through the "Strength-Based Communities for a Healthy Wilmington & San Pedro" program, activities will include: community education workshops, increasing access to health screenings, and mobilizing community residents and partner organizations to address environmental health issues. Focuses on individual level mitigations (indoor plants and community gardens) and community capacity building.

**Justification:** Organization does great work but given limited HCBF funds, proposal did not align with HCBF's priorities at this time.

**Wilmington Community of Schools-Los Angeles Unified School District**

**Amount Requested:** \$100,000

**Purpose:** Wilmington Community of Schools-Los Angeles Unified School District, is partnering with Wilmington Community Clinic to provide asthma screenings and education with encouraging follow up appointments with primary care or family practice providers to the students in the Wilmington Schools through their Healthy Breathing Project.

**Justification:** Proposal highlighted an important need and issue that aligns with HCBF's priorities but needed further details on activities and objectives/activities were not clear. During technical assistance, Staff will discuss with applicant strategies to strengthen application for future HCBF funds.

**Northeast Community Clinic (NECC)**

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000

**Purpose:** HCBF funds will support NECC's Behavioral Health Program where a licensed clinical social worker and case managers will work with at-risk patients to develop actions to manage behavioral health issue. At Wilmington NECC location, all patients 12yrs and older will be screened. During normal check-in procedure for medical visit, patients will complete screening tool and answer questions commonly used to assess issues such as depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse and other issues. NECC offers Behavioral Health Program services on a Sliding Fee Discount Scale so that low-income families can receive support

**Justification:** Well qualified and liked this funding for behavioral and substance abuse, but did not align with HCBF priorities at this time. Strong application because Applicant thoroughly researched HCBF and considered community need based on the Land Use study.

**Lice Free Forever Charity**

**Amount Requested:** \$25,000

**Purpose:** The Lice Free Forever program provides relief to children from low-income households with head lice removal services using all-natural products and providing parent education free of charge.

**Justification:** Does not align with HCBF's mission and does not address a port-related impact.

**South Bay Family Health Care**

**Amount Requested:** \$200,000

**Purpose:** The Harbor Gateway Access to Health Care Program proposes to provide comprehensive health care to the city of Wilmington and surrounding area communities affected by the impacts of local port activities, by providing access to comprehensive health care, direct community outreach, health screenings for early detection of conditions such as asthma, and primary care for chronic conditions to assist in mitigating the negative environmental health impacts on the target area's children and families.

**Justification:** Based in clinics in Carson and Gardena and not clear how they will target only Wilmington and San Pedro residents with PCMTF grant funding.