



## **Guillermo J. Valenzuela Foundation Response to COVID-19**

### **March 2020**

We, at the Valenzuela Foundation, have been closely monitoring the developments of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and are aware of the unprecedented realities we are all facing. We are particularly mindful that community-based organizations, such as our grantees, are addressing increasing needs among your vulnerable clients/patients/residents with limited resources.

To be responsive to our current reality and to support you, our nonprofit partners, the Valenzuela Foundation is adopting two important grantmaking strategies. First, the Valenzuela Foundation is making a \$25,000 contribution to the Inland Empire Funders Alliance Rapid Response Fund administered by the Inland Empire Community Foundation. Its purpose is to provide rapid response grants to established organizations with wide-reaching networks that can act as coordinating bodies for resource and service distribution.

Second, the Valenzuela Foundation is proposing greater flexibility with the organizations that have open grants with us. Please use the remainder of your 2019-20 grant for general operating support, releasing any restrictions from its use. Our hope is that this can help our grantees offset the costs incurred for disruptions to operations as a result of the outbreak, and maintain operations and adapt to the health and financial impacts caused by COVID-19.

### **May 2020 Update**

California continues to be on lock down and the threat of COVID-19 remains. For our grantees, this means their challenging circumstances persist and, in many cases, even worsen. Not only do they have to maintain social distancing, they are having to go above and beyond their regular services to meet the increasing needs of their already vulnerable clients/patients/students despite significant drops in revenue.

These hard times call on the Valenzuela Foundation to do our part to simplify our 2020-21 grant decision making process. The Valenzuela Board of Directors made the decision to do away with the competitive process for one year, and award grants in the 2020-21 cycle to our current grantees only. These organizations have been vetted; we have established relationships with them, and we have partnered with them for years now. This means that grantees do not have to go through the trouble of writing an entire application and wondering if they will or will not get funded. Our intention is to provide our grantees with some “guaranteed” resources while enabling them the needed space to focus on their work to serve the Inland Empire’s vulnerable communities.



Our hope is that we will get through this pandemic with relative speed and that the Valenzuela Foundation will be able to welcome new organizations to apply next year.

I will continue to stay informed of the Inland Empire's recovery and will do what we can to be of assistance during these trying times. The Valenzuela Foundation stands with you, our nonprofit partners.

In Solidarity,

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