

Kiley & Associates

July 30, 2026

Ms. Rubi Rizo
District Manager
East Kern Health Care District
9300 N Loop Blvd
California City, CA 93505

Dear Ms. Rizo,

I am writing to provide an overview of how Kiley & Associates can support the East Kern Health Care District in advancing its federal advocacy and grants strategy. Our firm has a long record of securing funding and policy wins for local governments, including many special districts across California.

For more than a decade, Kiley & Associates has delivered results for local governments, special districts, and public agencies. We help our clients identify federal funding opportunities, strengthen their voice in Washington, and secure critical resources. Our tailored and proactive approach ensures that each client receives high-level, strategic support aligned to their mission and objectives.

We propose to deliver a comprehensive federal/state advocacy and grants support engagement for the East Kern Health Care District with the following scope of work:

Scope of Work (Annual):

Federal Advocacy & Grants Support:

- Develop a federal roadmap targeting key infrastructure funding opportunities
- Develop a federal roadmap targeting key building and healthcare opportunities
- Pursue at least 1–2 congressionally directed spending (earmark) requests per Fiscal Year.
- Identify and assist with 3–5 relevant state/federal grant programs annually.
- Provide application guidance, data calls, draft narratives, and submission support.
- Track deadlines, eligibility changes, and program scoring criteria.

State -Level Engagement:

- Engage with key committees and caucuses in Sacramento to monitor legislation impacting water and fire infrastructure, conservation, and ratepayer protection, and ensure your priorities are reflected in state policy discussions.
- Pursue alignment with state grant and financing opportunities to maximize leverage of federal and state dollars for projects.

Congressional & Agency Engagement:

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- Arrange and support 7–10 meetings per year between District leadership and key federal stakeholders (congressional offices; HUD; USDA Rural Development; FEMA).
- Elevate the District's visibility with the California delegation and federal agencies.
- Coordinate delegation letters of support and priority listings prior to CPF/CDS windows.

Policy & Compliance Guidance:

- Provide quarterly updates on infrastructure regulatory developments, grant windows, and policy shifts.

D.C. Fly-In Planning:

- Plan and support one annual trip to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., to meet with lawmakers, agency staff, and federal program officers — timed around key federal deadlines.

Strategic Support & Troubleshooting:

- Help resolve federal-level issues impacting the District (e.g., HHS reimbursements, infrastructure delays).
- Monitor emerging opportunities for facilities, healthcare, equipment, vehicles and overall facilities

Expected Return on Investment (ROI):

In Year One, our objective is to help the District secure between \$250K–\$1.5M in competitive grants and/or congressionally directed spending. Our approach builds long-term funding pipelines while enhancing the District's strategic influence at the federal level.

Relevant Experience:

Kiley & Associates has successfully supported special districts, and municipalities across California. Past successes include but are not limited to:

- Delivered multiple >\$1M federal support packages for emergency operations, utility resilience, and small-system infrastructure upgrades in multiple California jurisdictions.
- Secured earmarks and competitive grants for buildings, fire, water, stormwater, and distribution system projects serving disadvantaged and rural populations.
- Guided local agencies through complex match, eligibility, and regulatory hurdles to unlock principal forgiveness and lower local cost share.

Our team includes former congressional staff, attorneys, and policy experts with extensive experience in federal grant programs, public safety legislation, and agency operations. You will have direct access to our senior team, including our President, Chief Counsel, and Vice President.

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Kiley & Associates would be honored to serve as your federal advocate. Should you decide to hire our team, we are prepared to begin immediately and recommend scheduling a strategy session to align on priorities. Our monthly retainer for our services is \$2,285 per month.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions.

Very respectfully,



Jayson Braude
Chief Counsel

Kiley & Associates, LLC
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Washington, DC 20002
(562) 818-6646
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2 Attachments:

1. Team Biographies
2. Recent Experience and References

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Attachment I: Team Biographies

Gregory T. Kiley-President, Kiley & Associates

Gregory Kiley is President of Kiley & Associates, LLC. Since retiring from federal service, he has consulted to federal, state and local governments, and industry and non-profit entities on national security policy and processes. He has written for the Center for Strategic and International Studies among others.

Prior to working in the private sector, Mr. Kiley served 25 years in the federal government, concentrating on local governments, defense and national security. He spent six years as a senior professional staff member for the Senate Armed Services Committee. As lead staff for two subcommittees, his oversight portfolio included all military air and ground systems, military logistics and readiness, and the defense budget. His responsibilities included coordinating and conducting congressional hearings, developing and drafting legislation, and negotiating and staffing passage of annual National Defense Authorization Acts and supplemental spending bills.

Mr. Kiley began his professional career in the U.S. Air Force, culminating as a senior pilot, flying C-130 aircraft and deploying throughout the world. Greg also held positions as a wing plans officer, maintenance officer, and information management officer. Greg lives in Washington, D.C. with his wife and daughters.

Jayson J. Braude-Chief Counsel, Kiley & Associates

Jayson Braude is the Chief Counsel to Kiley & Associates. Jayson Braude grew up in the Los Angeles area and is the grandson of former United States Congressman Glenn Anderson. Jayson worked for United States Senators Kent Conrad and Sherrod Brown in Washington, D.C. After law school, he worked as Legislative Counsel for United States Congresswoman Janice Hahn, where he staffed the Congresswoman on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He then became the District Director for Congresswoman Nanette Diaz Barragan in her San Pedro office. Jayson has over fifteen-years of experience in government affairs and maintains contacts all over Capitol Hill and throughout federal, state and local agencies. Jayson is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and received his law degree from Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. Jayson is a member of the Washington Bar and resides in Washington, D.C.

Kimberly J. VanWyhe-Vice President, Kiley & Associates

Kimberly is currently Vice President of Kiley & Associates, focusing on business development and policy and strategy development. Kimberly received her BA in Political Science from St. John's University in 2004 and received her MBA in International Business with a concentration in consulting and holds a certification in Global Oil and Gas Management from the Thunderbird

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School of Global Management. Kimberly's previous professional experience includes working on multiple political campaigns on both the state and federal level, working for the Alaska State Legislature as well as working for the Cohen Group, a defense-oriented consulting firm founded by former Secretary of Defense William Cohen. She then served as the Director of Energy Policy at the American Action Forum, a D.C. think tank focusing on economic, domestic, and fiscal policy issues. Kimberly was raised in Fairbanks, Alaska and currently resides in Washington, D.C.

Michael Lane, Senior Partner, Kiley & Associates

Michael Lane is a Senior Partner at Kiley & Associates, specializing in federal supply chain policy, risk management, and government affairs. A former U.S. Army officer, he led the deployment of a logistics and sustainment company to Iraq in 2011 before transitioning to federal consulting. Mike has advised key agencies—including the Departments of State, Treasury, and Defense—on procurement, logistics, and risk management. He also has supported major defense contractors and aerospace firms navigating federal regulations. With deep expertise in supply chain resilience and national security policy, Mike advocates for clients facing legislative and regulatory challenges. A longtime Washington, D.C. resident, he leverages strong relationships across Capitol Hill and federal agencies to drive results.

Attachment II: Recent Experience and References

Kiley & Associates has strong ties at the federal level with both the legislative and executive branches. Every member of our team has developed professional working relationships with Republican and Democratic Members of the Senate and House, as well as with their personal staffs, and the staffs of key Senate and House committees. Further, we have key allies within the White House staff and across the Trump Administration.

Kiley & Associates' size, structure and personalized approach allows us to provide proactive, cost-effective representation to all our clients.

We are extremely proud of our work for our city clients across the State of California. The accomplishments and experience gained from the recent work below in other local governments is a sample of similar work we would apply to Arrowbear Park County Water District.

2024- Present. Monte Vista Water District, CA.

- Secured **\$1,092,000** for a Pipeline Replacement Project; organized multiple site visits for Congressman Torres; supported high-level meetings with EPA regarding WIFIA Loan issues; monitored water-related legislation in Sacramento; worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to unfreeze a major grant; and initiated a relationship with senior White House officials.

2024-Present. Crestline Village Water District, CA.

- Secured a **\$1,000,000** CPF award for Water Efficiency and Infrastructure Updates.

2021 – Present. Chino Valley Fire Protection District, South Lake Fire Protection District, Stinson Beach Fire Protection District.

- Successfully supported FY 26 and Projected FY27 earmarks for millions of dollars.
- Facilitated meetings between District leadership and congressional offices to advance funding priorities and strengthen federal relationships.
- Monitored federal appropriations developments and provided timely updates on public safety funding opportunities relevant to District operations.
- Assisted with letters of support and agency correspondence in connection with federal grant applications and earmark requests.

2019-Present. City of Carson, California.

- Provided guidance and counsel to the Mayor and City Council on various matters related to COVID-19, including updates on federal policy and federal grant opportunities.

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- Organized a Federal Small Business Administration virtual meeting to educate Carson business owners on the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Coordinated meetings between Carson Council members, the FAA, and the Long Beach Airport regarding noise complaints from residents.
- Facilitated meetings with FEMA and the United States Treasury to ensure Carson was receiving their fair share of the municipal funding from the American Rescue Plan.
- Renewed the City's relationship with United States Senator Dianne Feinstein and helped the City apply for earmarks and Community Improvement Projects (CIPs) with her office, which includes the potential of over a million dollars for parks funding within the City.
- Worked with the Federal Communications Commission to promote the Emergency Broadband Benefit to Carson residents, which will provide them up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a computer or tablet.
- At the request of the City, approached the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C. to investigate long-running postal problems within the City of Carson with a goal to improve mail service for Carson residents.
- Worked with the City to explore renewable energy opportunities, including electric vehicle charging throughout Carson and solar power at City Hall and other City-owned buildings.
- Brought in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to help the City with the problem at the Domínguez Channel.
- Helped the City secure a \$2 million federal earmark from their Congressman for an infrastructure project at Carson Veterans Park.
- Helped the City secure a Senate earmark for \$1.5 million that Senator Padilla submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for street and landscaping improvements.

2019-Present. **City of South Gate, California.**

- Developed a federal funding and policy agenda for the Mayor, Council and City department heads. Created federal government agendas and provided federal outreach and funding opportunities. Provide the City with relevant hearing schedules and grant announcements.

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- Arranged for City officials to meet with federal officials on the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program which provided thousands of dollars for families in the City who lost a loved one.
- Provided the City with Congressional and White House updates detailing legislative action in Washington.
- Worked with the City to secure earmarks for \$1.5 million in road improvements to Garfield Avenue, of which Congresswoman Barragán submitted to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for approval.
- Worked with South Gate, Los Angeles County Metro, and Congress for millions of dollars in funding for the West Santa Ana Branch light rail line. Started a dialogue between the City and the office of recently appointed United States Senator Alex Padilla.
- Worked with the City and the EPA to keep the South Gate Superfund sites at the forefront of the agencies' federal priorities.
- Worked closely with the City and federal officials after the January 2020 Delta Airlines Fuel Release over Southeast Los Angeles. Facilitated a Zoom call between the White House and the City of South Gate. South Gate Councilwoman Denise Diaz also participated in this extremely informative and crucial White House conversation with Intergovernmental Affairs Director Eduardo Cisneros.
- Engaged with the United States Conference of Mayors, providing South Gate a seat at the table for numerous federal decisions.
- Helped the City secure an earmark for \$1 million that the Congresswoman submitted to the House Appropriations Committee for drinking water improvements.
- Helped the City secure an earmark for \$1.5 million that Senator Padilla submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for street and landscaping improvements.
- Helped the City secure an earmark for \$1.25 million that both Senator Feinstein and Senator Padilla submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee for upgrades to the City's Emergency Operations Center.

2020-Present. **City of Lynwood, California.**

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- Organized meetings for the City and the Port of Los Angeles regarding the shipping backlog and the supply chain issues currently impacting the region, traffic, and the environment.
- Worked with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to secure a \$1 million dollar award for the City of Lynwood. Worked with the EPA to bring in senior White House officials to the City for a tour and meetings.
- Worked with Congressional officials and the City to ensure Lynwood is maximizing COVID-19 FEMA reimbursements and implementing ARPA funding for maximum usage.
- Helped the City with numerous matters related to compliance and accounting of the ARPA. Worked with the City to push for Federal legislation that allows for 30% of ARPA recovery funding to be spent on transportation projects or community projects. Helped the City secure an earmark for \$1.3 million that their Congresswoman submitted to the House Appropriations Committee for renovations to the City's Senior Center.
- Helped the City secure Senate earmarks that were submitted to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Feinstein secured funding for public safety radio.

References

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Kiley & Associates

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Staff Report

Name: Rubi Rizo

Position: Acting District Manager

Reporting Period 07/21/26-08/04/26

Reporting on:

- I. Office Moved! updates,
- II. WIFI Connectivity grants, programs, Future needs for Community Needs Health Implementation Plan IE-connectivity for telehealth
- III. Staff Overview
- IV. Resolution and Ordinances
- V. Community Health Grant Program DRAFT
- VI. Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation DRAFT

Goals: MANY (=

Director's Comments:



USIDHR
US INSTITUTE OF DIPLOMACY™
AND HUMAN RIGHTS

CERTIFICATE

Human Rights Education Training

This certificate is awarded to

Rubi Rizo

**In recognition for completing the required training and becoming a Certified
Human Rights Consultant with US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights,
Washington, DC.**

Dr. Isabelle Vladoiu, Instructor
Certificate ID: 190052740

Issued: Jul 29, 2026



EAST KERN HEALTH CARE DISTRICT

COMMUNITY HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM

POLICY

Policy No.: G-101

Effective Date: _____

Approved By: Board of Directors, East Kern Health Care District

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish legally defensible and transparent procedures for awarding community health grants that benefit residents of the East Kern Health Care District. The East Kern Health Care District ("District") may provide grants to nonprofit organizations, community groups, public agencies, educational institutions, and eligible community-based programs that improve the health and well-being of residents within the District's service area.

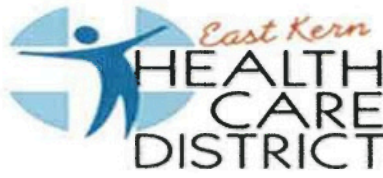
The purpose of this policy is to:

- Improve community health outcomes.
- Support health education and prevention programs.
- Address health disparities.
- Expand access to healthcare services.
- Promote partnerships that benefit District residents.
- Ensure public funds are distributed fairly, transparently, and in accordance with District objectives.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors recognizes that strategic investments in community organizations can significantly improve local health outcomes.

All grant awards shall:



- Serve a public purpose.
- Benefit residents of the District.
- Be awarded through an open and transparent process.
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulations.
- Be free from favoritism or political influence.
- Be subject to measurable outcomes and accountability standards.

3. AUTHORITY

This policy is adopted pursuant to the District's statutory authority and fiduciary responsibility to advance community health and wellness.

Grant funding is discretionary and subject to annual budget appropriations approved by the Board.

4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include:

A. Nonprofit Organizations

Organizations recognized under:

- IRS 501(c)(3)
- Public charities
- Community foundations

B. Public Agencies

- Schools
- School districts
- Community colleges
- Cities
- Counties
- Special districts



C. Healthcare Organizations

- Community clinics
- Mental health providers
- Mobile health services
- Public health programs

D. Tribal Organizations

Programs serving District residents.

E. Community-Based Organizations

Organizations operating programs directly benefiting District residents.

5. INELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The District shall not award grants to:

- Political campaigns
- Political action committees
- Individuals for personal benefit
- Religious organizations for sectarian purposes
- For-profit entities unless specifically authorized by the Board and serving a clear public health purpose
- Organizations with unresolved compliance issues from previous District grants

6. ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

Examples include:

- Healthcare access initiatives
- Mobile medical services
- Mental health programs
- Substance abuse prevention
- Senior wellness programs
- Youth health programs



- Health education
- Chronic disease prevention
- Nutrition initiatives
- Community health screenings
- Emergency health preparedness
- Telehealth access
- Workforce development in healthcare fields

7. INELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

Grant funds shall not be used for:

- Political advocacy
- Election activities
- Lobbying activities
- Debt retirement
- Legal settlements
- Fundraising events
- Individual scholarships unless approved by the Board
- Expenses incurred before grant approval
- Activities outside the District benefiting no District residents

8. ANNUAL FUNDING AUTHORIZATION

Each fiscal year the Board may:

- Establish a Community Health Grant Budget.
- Define funding priorities.
- Establish grant categories.
- Set maximum award amounts.

The Board reserves the right to:

- Reduce funding levels.
- Suspend grant cycles.
- Reject any application.



9. APPLICATION PROCESS

The District shall establish a formal grant application process.

Applications shall include:

Organizational Information

- Legal name
- Contact information
- Tax identification number
- Proof of nonprofit or public agency status

Program Information

- Project description
- Statement of community need
- Target population
- Expected outcomes
- Geographic service area

Financial Information

- Project budget
- Other funding sources
- Most recent audit or financial statements

Performance Measures

Applicants must identify measurable outcomes.

Examples:

- Residents served
- Medical visits provided
- Health screenings completed
- Educational sessions conducted
- Improvements in identified health indicators



10. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications shall be evaluated using a scoring system based on:

Criteria	Points
Alignment with District Mission	25
Community Need	20
Impact on District Residents	20
Organizational Capacity	15
Measurable Outcomes	10
Fiscal Responsibility	10
Total	100

Priority may be given to programs serving:

- Underserved populations
- Rural communities
- Low-income individuals
- Seniors
- Veterans
- Children and families

11. REVIEW PROCESS

District Manager shall:

1. Review applications for completeness.
2. Verify eligibility.
3. Score applications.
4. Prepare recommendations.

The Board may appoint a Grant Review Committee.

All committee meetings shall comply with applicable transparency requirements.



12. BOARD APPROVAL

Final grant awards shall be approved by the Board during a publicly noticed meeting.

The Board may:

- Approve applications.
- Approve modified funding amounts.
- Reject applications.

Board decisions are final.

13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

To ensure public trust:

- All Board Members and staff shall comply with the Political Reform Act and District Conflict of Interest Code.
- Any Director with a disqualifying financial interest shall recuse themselves from discussion and voting.
- Applicants must disclose relationships with Board Members or employees.

Failure to disclose may result in denial or termination of funding.

14. GRANT AGREEMENT

Before funds are released, recipients shall execute a written agreement specifying:

- Scope of work
- Approved budget
- Performance measures
- Reporting requirements
- Audit requirements
- Repayment provisions for misuse



15. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients shall provide:

Mid-Year Report

- Activities completed
- Funds expended
- Progress toward goals

Final Report

- Outcomes achieved
- Number of residents served
- Financial summary
- Lessons learned

The District Manager may require additional reporting.

16. MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT

The District Manager may:

- Conduct site visits.
- Request supporting documentation.
- Perform financial reviews.
- Audit grant expenditures.

Grant recipients must maintain records for at least five years.

17. PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY

To promote transparency and accountability, the District shall annually publish:

- Total grant funds awarded.
- Recipient names.



- Award amounts.
- Program descriptions.
- Outcome summaries.

Information shall be available through:

- Board meetings
- Annual reports
- District website

Consistent transparency practices align with CSDA and SDLF governance best practices.

[\[csda.net\]](http://csda.net), [\[sdarc.spec...strict.org\]](http://sdarc.spec...strict.org)

18. NONDISCRIMINATION

Recipients shall not discriminate based on:

- Race
- Color
- National origin
- Religion
- Gender
- Gender identity
- Sexual orientation
- Disability
- Age
- Veteran status

or any protected classification under law.

19. FUND RECOVERY

The District may suspend, terminate, or require repayment of grant funds if:

- Funds are misused.
- False information is submitted.
- Reporting requirements are not met.



- Project objectives are abandoned.

20. ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW

The Board shall review the Community Health Grant Program annually to evaluate:

- Community impact
- Financial stewardship
- Health outcomes achieved
- Program improvements

COMMUNITY MEMBER ASSISTANCE GRANTS

(INDIVIDUAL HARDSHIP PROGRAM)

Because direct grants to individuals can create legal and public-purpose concerns, the District should only offer assistance to community members through a separately adopted **Health Assistance Program** with strict eligibility criteria, income verification, and documented public health objectives. Assistance should typically be limited to:

- Emergency medical transportation
- Medical equipment not covered by insurance
- Prescription assistance
- Specialty treatment travel assistance
- Health-related emergency needs

All individual assistance decisions should be District Manager -administered under Board-approved criteria rather than discretionary Board awards to specific individuals.

Recommended Annual Funding Structure

Program	Annual Allocation
Community Organization Grants	50%
Healthcare Access Projects	50%



This structure provides strong governance controls and is consistent with the transparency, ethics, accountability, and public-purpose principles encouraged for California special districts.



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20. Annual Program Review
21. Application
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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish legally defensible and transparent procedures for awarding community health grants that benefit residents of the East Kern Health Care District.

Authority

Grant awards are subject to annual appropriations approved by the Board of Directors and shall advance the public health mission of the District.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include nonprofit corporations, public agencies, schools, clinics, tribal organizations and community-based organizations serving District residents.

Application Requirements

Applications must include organizational information, project narrative, budget, measurable outcomes, proof of status and certifications.

Conflict of Interest

Directors, officers and employees shall comply with applicable conflict-of-interest requirements and recuse themselves when required.

Appeals Procedure

Applicants may submit a written appeal within fifteen calendar days. Appeals are limited to procedural errors, scoring errors, or material factual errors. The Board decision shall be final.

Audit Procedures

Recipients shall maintain records for five years. The District may conduct audits, inspect records, perform site visits, and require repayment of improperly used funds.

Transparency

Grant awards shall be approved in publicly noticed meetings and reported publicly.



Grant Application Form

_____ Organization Name

_____ Contact Person

_____ Address

_____ Email

_____ Project Title

_____ Amount Requested

_____ Population Served

_____ Project Description

_____ Budget

_____ Expected Outcomes

Evaluation Scoring Matrix

Criteria	Points
Mission Alignment	25
Community Need	20
Health Impact	15
Underserved Populations	15
Organizational Capacity	10
Fiscal Responsibility	10
Innovation	5



Detailed Grant Agreement

Recipients shall use grant funds solely for approved purposes, submit required reports, maintain insurance if applicable, retain records for five years, permit audits, indemnify the District, and return funds determined to have been improperly expended. The District may suspend or terminate funding upon noncompliance.



Board Resolution

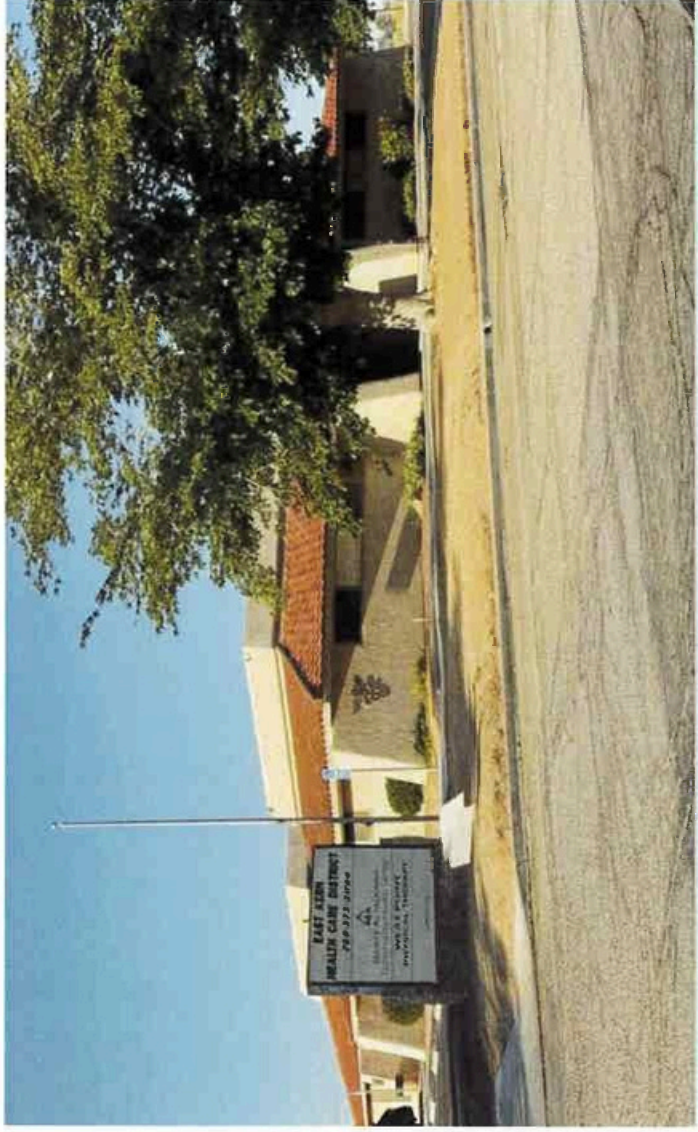
BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors adopts the East Kern Health Care District Community Health Grant Program Manual and authorizes implementation by District staff.



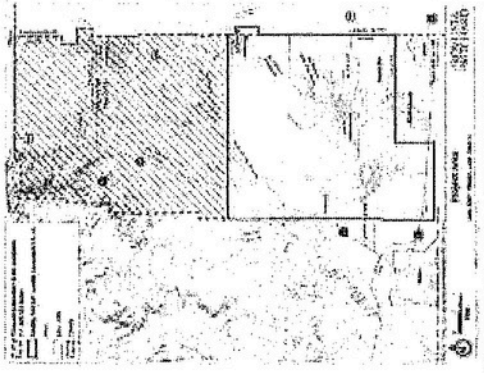
Annual Reporting Template

Activities Completed, Residents Served, Outcomes Achieved, Expenditures, Challenges, Success Stories, Certification Signature.

EAST KERN HEALTH CARE DISTRICT



COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2026



INTRODUCTION

East Kern Health Care District (EKHCD) is a government agency, an independent Special District, located in the southeast portion of Kern County. The East Kern Health Care District was established in 1977 to serve the East Kern communities. The district provides property management for four medical facilities in California City. The district continues to explore expansion of medical services to provide access to fill the medical needs of the East Kern communities. Additional details about EKHCD can be found at <https://www.ekhcd.org/>.

OBJECTIVE

This implementation plan outlines East Kern Health Care District's strategies for addressing the needs found in the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment, aligning resources and partnerships for the greatest community impact and improving the health of our most remote populations.

2024 Community Health needs Assessment Summary

Data collection strategies involved a community survey, interviews with stakeholders, and aggregation of health data from publicly available sources. The list of sources can be found on the CHNA report found on the East Kern Health Care District's website: WWW.EKHCD.ORG.

Eight topics were selected for the assessment:

- Access to Care
- Mental Health
- Health Education
- Substance Abuse
- Sexual Health
- Maternal Health
- Chronic Disease
- Elder/Senior Care
- Acute Illness and Injury
- Environmental Conditions

Community Health Needs Assessment Priorities 2025

Health Need	Priority	Rationale
Access to Care	1	Access to quality in person care is very limited, however connectivity is high as is community willingness to attend virtual appointments. Telehealth options will also help address those with transportation problems and work/scheduling conflicts. More types of health services can be made available to the area and wait times for appointments would be significantly reduced.
Mental Health	2	Homicide rates are more than double the state average, violence rates are also abnormally high. The area also experiences low levels of social

		support, and high levels of suicide. Accessible mental health may be better met and utilized with virtual/telehealth options to help reduce these instances.
Health Education	3	Obesity affects more than one-third of the local population, while rates of sexually transmitted diseases are among the highest in the state. Smoking, substance abuse, and incidents of poisoning and noxious fume inhalation also occur at significantly higher rates than statewide averages. Many of these health challenges are preventable through effective education and early intervention. Compounding these concerns, educational attainment in the area is relatively low, with approximately 52% of residents having never attended college and many individuals not completing high school. As a result, there is a critical need for comprehensive health education programs that empower residents with the knowledge and skills to make healthier choices. Initiatives focused on preparing affordable, nutritious meals, increasing opportunities for physical activity for both children and adults, preventing substance abuse and tobacco use, and promoting safety practices such as proper chemical handling could have a substantial and lasting impact on community health. Investing in these educational programs would help address preventable health risks, improve quality of life, and strengthen overall community well-being.
Substance Abuse	Not selected	Health Education and Mental Health Services will greatly impact these numbers. Increased access to care will also reduce substance abuse in users who are dealing with chronic health issues through substance abuse.

Sexual Health	Not selected	Health Education and increased access to care will have a positive impact on sexual health and std rates should decrease.
Maternal Health	Not selected	Access to maternal health is limited but a new OBGYN program is reopening in the furthest East area of the district's boundaries. Access can be made more accessible with mobile unit visits to our more remote areas and health education for healthy pregnancies.
Chronic Disease	4	Chronic conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, respiratory illness, cognitive disorders, and heart disease are common in the community. With a large population of veterans, retirees, and students, many residents face an increased risk of chronic health challenges. Expanding preventive health education and access to specialists through telehealth and mobile healthcare services would improve early intervention, enhance disease management, and lead to better long-term health outcomes for the community.
Elder/Senior Care	Not selected	Access to Elder/Senior care needs can be improved through telehealth or mobile unit visits.
Acute Illness and Injury	Not selected	The area does have a hospital with an emergency room but proves to service the furthest East end of the district zone, while most other populated areas will have to travel 30 minutes or more for emergency needs as well as a staffed urgent care facility.
Environmental Conditions	Not selected	Although public perception is that environmental conditions affecting health are significant, the data does not support that belief.

Access to care

Identified Needs

Long wait times for appointments, a lack of specialists, and provider shortages all contribute to making Access to Care the number one priority for the East Kern Health Care District.

Why Selected

The community's most significant challenge is its remote location, which creates barriers to recruiting and retaining qualified healthcare professionals in permanent positions.

Path to implementation

Investing in the modernization of aging infrastructure can help attract new healthcare providers and expand access to care. Additionally, collaborating with partners to offer alternative service delivery models, such as telehealth, virtual consultations, and mobile healthcare services, can reduce wait times, minimize travel burdens for both patients and providers, and increase the availability and diversity of healthcare services within the community.

Status

The East Kern Health Care District is currently undertaking efforts to modernize its healthcare infrastructure, including facility upgrades to achieve ADA compliance and studying options to improve connectivity across existing healthcare sites. Additionally, the district is exploring and evaluating mobile healthcare and telehealth solutions to expand access to care, enhance service delivery, and better meet the healthcare needs of residents.

Mental Health

Identified Need

Rates of violence, homicide, and suicide within the community are significantly higher than state averages, highlighting critical public health and safety concerns. The area's geographic isolation and limited social support networks further contribute to these challenges. Additionally, access to mental health services is scarce, creating barriers to timely and effective care for residents in need.

Why Selected

Expanding access to high-quality mental health services through telehealth and virtual care options has the potential to improve service availability, reduce wait times, and increase timely access to care. These enhancements may also broaden the range of mental health services available to community members, helping to better address diverse behavioral health needs while overcoming geographic barriers to care.

Path to Implementation

Collaborating with community partners to expand access to mental health services through telehealth and virtual care platforms will help address service gaps in rural and underserved areas. In addition, efforts to modernize existing healthcare facilities are underway to attract and sustain full-time behavioral health and healthcare providers within the community. The community is also exploring opportunities to develop social and wellness-focused events that promote mental well-being, strengthen social connections, and enhance overall quality of life for residents.

Status

The community is actively engaging with existing service providers to identify opportunities to better support local mental health needs. In addition, discussions with partners are underway to explore and expand mental health services, particularly for residents in the more remote and underserved areas of the community.

Health Education

Identified Need

Limited access to health education and preventive health resources within the community has contributed to elevated rates of preventable illnesses and injuries.

Why selected

High rates of obesity, renal disease, respiratory illness, sexually transmitted infections, accidental injuries, tobacco use, and substance misuse, combined with limited health literacy and educational attainment within the community, have created a significant need for comprehensive health education and prevention initiatives. Expanding access to quality health education can help promote healthier lifestyles, improve disease prevention and management, and support better long-term health outcomes for community residents.

Path to Implementation

To address the community's health challenges, it is recommended that a comprehensive health education initiative be developed, focusing on chronic disease prevention, nutrition, physical activity, injury prevention, sexual health, substance use prevention, mental health awareness, and overall wellness. Programs should be designed to improve health literacy, encourage preventive care, and empower residents to make informed health decisions. Utilizing a combination of in-person, mobile, and virtual educational formats can help ensure equitable access to resources and outreach efforts, particularly for individuals residing in remote or underserved areas.

Status

The community is currently establishing a Cancer Awareness Committee to promote education, prevention, and early detection initiatives. Additionally, an assessment of existing health education resources is underway to identify gaps and opportunities across a range of health topics. These efforts are intended to support the expansion of health education programs and services, enhance community awareness, and improve overall health outcomes for residents.

Chronic Disease

Identified Need

Mortality rates associated with diabetes, chronic lower respiratory disease, and heart disease are significantly higher in this community compared to much of the state. These health disparities are compounded by limited access to specialty care services, which can create barriers to timely diagnosis, treatment, and ongoing disease management.

Why selected

The East Kern Health Care District serves a community with a substantial population of veterans, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. These demographic factors, combined with lower levels of educational attainment and limited access to healthcare services, contribute to significant health challenges within the region. Collectively, these conditions increase the prevalence of chronic diseases and underscore the need for expanded healthcare access, preventive services, health education, and chronic disease management programs to improve overall community health outcomes.

Path to Implementation

Expanding access to specialty care through telehealth services, virtual consultations, and mobile healthcare units can significantly improve healthcare accessibility for residents in the community's most remote areas, enabling more timely and effective management of chronic diseases. Additionally, community-based education, prevention, and screening initiatives can increase health awareness, promote early detection of disease, and encourage healthier lifestyle choices. Collectively, these efforts have the potential to reduce the prevalence and impact of chronic conditions, improve overall health outcomes, and help lower mortality rates to levels more consistent with those observed in other communities throughout the state.

Status

The district is currently collaborating with healthcare providers to explore the deployment of mobile healthcare units that can deliver services and support for individuals managing chronic health conditions. In addition, the district is conducting community outreach and engagement to identify the most effective approaches for health education, preventive care, and health screening events. These

initiatives are intended to enhance access to care, promote early detection and disease prevention, and improve overall community health outcomes.

Issues Not Selected

While all of the topics identified in the assessment have an impact on our community, the East Kern Health Care District has chosen to prioritize those health needs where its resources can make the most meaningful and measurable difference. Addressing these priority areas is also expected to contribute to improvements in several of the non-prioritized topics.

What's Next

The East Kern Health Care District will continue its outreach, partnership, and collaborative efforts to support the goals outlined in this Implementation Plan. As additional resources become available, the district will periodically reassess its priorities, strategies, and programs to ensure they remain responsive to the evolving health needs of the community. The district is committed to identifying service gaps and developing innovative approaches to better support vulnerable and at-risk populations, while strengthening access to resources that promote overall community health and well-being.

VENDOR	MEMO LINE	AMOUNT
AXION	Monthly Services Invoice # 10001119337 for services 0827 to 0926 2026	\$104.88
City of California City	2026 0614 to 0713, Act# 101730.03 8101 Bay Ave \$70.00 2026 0614 to 0713 Act# 103347.01 9300 N Loop \$290.16	\$360.16
Hiller	Annual Fire Extinguisher Annual Service Invoice # 802538 05042026	\$185.00
PEAC	Invoice# 4238543 Monthly Service fees 0724 to 0815 2026 9300 North Loop	\$ 711.43
Jovanhy Reyes Maintenance Technician	Mileage and Supplies Reimbursement	\$15.95
Jessica Rojas	Mileage Reimbursement for Bank Transfer	\$62.35
TOTAL ITEMS = 5		TOTAL = \$1,439.77

ACTION MINUTES
EAST KERN HEALTH CARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

5:30 p.m. Tuesday July 21st, 2026, (Hybrid and Zoom)

*MISSION STATEMENT: "Building health,
well -being, and resiliency"*

Video Time Code	ITEM AS AGENDIZED	BOARD ACTION Motions are identified in bold as First: Second
5:35	I. OPEN MEETING	Patrick, L.
5:36	A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/INVOCATION	Rojas, J
5:36	B. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL	Peralta, L Royten, S Rojas, J Macedonio, K Patrick, L
5:37	C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA	Rojas, J., Peralta, L. Motion carried 5-0 Approved with Emergency add-on to New Business concerning Election forms for Kern County

		and San Bernardino County.
5:40	II. NEW BUSINESS a. Eva Hebebrand Financials 1. Balance Sheet unaudited June 2026 2. Profit and Loss unaudited June 2026 3. Budget VS Actuals June 2026 4. Check detail May-June 2026 5. Budget Approval for 2026-2027 b. Notice of Elective offices to be filled for Kern county and San Bernardino county c. Review and Possibly action to resume Zoom recordings of meetings of East Kern Health Care District d. Board consideration and possible action regarding response to Medallion Contracts for North Loop Site Improvement Project RFB 9278,9300,9350 Accessible Path of Travel ADA Compliance and possible vote for contract e. Summer Programs f. Cancer Fund Policies and Bylaws	a. Rojas, J., Royten S. 2.a-5: Motion carried 4-0 Macedonio dissenting b. Patrick, L., Rojas J. Motion carried 5-0 c. Peralta, L., Patrick, L. Motion carried 5-0 d. Rojas, J., Royten, S. Motion carried 5-0 e. Will bring back with research into needs and availability of programs in our sphere of influence f. Will bring back after legal and auditor review

7:08	III. PUBLIC COMMENTS	None
7:08	IV. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	None
7:09	V. STAFF REPORT I. Office movement updates, IT, WIFI II. WIFI Connectivity grants, programs, Future needs for Community Needs Health Implementation Plan IE-connectivity for telehealth III. Staff Overview IV. Resolution and Ordinances	• Bring back the contract for the new staff member (clerk role) at the next board meeting. • Register directors for the Kern Economic Development Corporation Annual Dinner. • Reach out to the city regarding summer programs and gather supplemental documents for the August meeting. • Look into grants for internet connectivity for the new meeting location. • Work on creating an investment policy and a reserve policy for the district. • Bring back the Cancer Fund policies, procedures, and bylaws to the next meeting after legal and auditor review.

		• Bring back a policy/procedure for grants (not sponsorships) to the board. • Bring back a discussion/policy on rotating meeting locations to accommodate directors from different communities. Collaboration • Directors: Bring ideas for summer programs (not limited to parks) to the August meeting. • Directors: Consider and discuss the creation of an investment policy, reserve policy, and separate budget documents for insurance claims and capital improvements.
7:15	CONSENT CALENDAR A. Vendor Payments Debit Payment (INFORMATION ONLY) B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 1. Regular Meeting July7th, 2026	Royten, S, Rojas, J. Motion carried 5-0

7:19	VII. CLOSE MEETING	
7:19	A. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS	
7:22	B. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS	
7:22	C. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS	

7:33	D. FUTURE AGENDA 1. Board Discussion and possible action to review Mission and Vision Statement to align with development of Strategic Plan 2. Good Faith Conflict Meeting amendment 2-1.409 (B) # (6) 3. R. Rizo presents homework and progress review of MJHMP 4. R. Rizo Mission and Vision Review to suit strategic planning process. 5. Policies and Procedures for Sponsorships, Memberships and Subscriptions 6. Board Discussion and possible Action for Yearly Membership and Sponsorship of the Desert Rose Garden Club	
7:34	E. ADJOURNMENT	Patrick, L.