

HICO 2020: 1st Grant Cycle Review

Introduction:

It is wonderful that the Proposal Assessment Committee (PAC) is nearing completion of its first set of grants for our High Impact Community Outreach program (HICO). PAC has done a tremendous amount of work to establish an equitable and sustainable process for the longer-term. As you know, HICO was established with \$100,000 of initial funding and the UUCSF website was set-up as the touch point for communication. Significant efforts have been made to: 1) develop an application and concentrate HICO's focus, 2) get the word out in the community, 3) research/evaluate proposals, and 4) engage with grantees to foster connection with our congregation. It is our hope that with the HICO program granting awards Members and Friends will find new connections and take pride in having an important impact in our community.

HICO's Focus 2020:

Launching HICO in the midst of a pandemic is challenging as well as rewarding. One concern was how to balance short-term needs with the longer-term nature of our process/mission. Secondly, how to manage the prospects of being overwhelmed for grants to meet basic community needs. PAC developed our "Focus 2020" which targeted specific populations and special needs. Potential grantees had to satisfy at least one of these criteria and preferable one in each category.

Populations:

- Immigrants of all status
- Senior Citizens
- Essential Workers

Needs:

- Health and Mental Health Equity
- Food Access
- Safe Shelter

This turned out to be a successful strategy helping to frame our conversations and restraining the physical number of applications. Helped by a strong presence in the press we received 15 applications with a total request of \$330,100. The applicants and a short description of the projects follow.

HICO Applications received for August 1, 2020 Grant Cycle

<u>Organization</u>	<u>\$ Request</u>	<u>Short Description</u>
Shinnecock Indian Nation	28,300	Ability for Elders to connect/use Internet
Padoquohan Medicine Lodge	26,500	Housing Repairs & Assistance for Elders/Essential Workers
Butterfly Effect Project	5,175	Community Garden: Change dietary choices; connections
OLA of Eastern LI	25,000	Access to Mental Health for Lantinx Young adults
E Hampton Meals on Wheels	10,000	Meals to seniors
East End Food Institute	15,000	Distribute frozen local produce to 25 families in S. Nation
East End Birth Network	23,000	Mobile Parent and Baby Pantry
Family Service League	10,000	Transportation for Mental Health Care
Centro Corazon de Maria	49,400	Education/Parent support program for 10 immigrant fams
N Fork Spanish Apostolate	25,725	Food Security via home gardens; workshops, supplies
Community Action Southold	20,000	Early childhood education, support of new mothers
Maureen's Haven	25,000	Increase resources to run Winter Homeless program
Hampton Art Camp	25,000	Services -- Mental Health, Food, Education -- for S. Nation
Mas House	37,000	Restore Home: Safe Cultural Haven
*Rural & Migrant Ministry	<u>5,000</u>	Develop Women's Cooperative Business
TOTAL Requests	330,100	

*Rural & Migrant Ministry's application was received on 8/12/2020 and was deferred to the next cycle
Bolded organizations will be grantees

The huge outpouring of needs was not necessarily surprising but still shocking. The breadth of the projects, diversity of populations served and creativity was a testament to the dedication of the institutions to their constituencies. Proposals were received from each geographic area aside from Shelter Island. The PAC spent considerable time discussing equity in granting, the potential impact of proposed projects, the urgency of the needs being addressed, prospects for success and the dollar amount of grants. The PAC found common ground identifying projects that were outstanding and deserving of an award. It is worth noting that HICO's unique focus makes the UUCSF relatively important for the East End non-profits. The pandemic's impact on agencies and their populations cannot be overstated. The quality of the proposed projects, local needs and the additional stress of the pandemic combined to necessitate a large total award for our inaugural grant cycle of \$41,175. Details are in the table:

Grant Scheme:

Organization	\$ Ask	\$ Grant
Shinnecock Indian Nation	28,300	7,000
Padiquohan Medical Lodge	26,500	7,000
Butterfly Effect Project	5,175	5,175
OLA of Eastern LI	25,000	7,000
East Hampton Meals on Wheels	10,000	5,000
East End Food Institute	15,000	5,000
East End Birth Network	<u>23,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total	132,975	41,175

Future HICO Awards

The PAC feels that a nine-month award schedule is appropriate. The work associated with soliciting applications, evaluating projects and follow-ups with grant recipients is considerable. Additionally, available funds do not facilitate the original idea of two cycles per year. So, the tentative schedule for awards is:

September 2020	\$41,175
June 2021	\$30,000
March 2022	\$28,825

This schedule is based on HICO's original grant/mandate of \$100,000.

Next Steps:

- Having informed the Board of our decision, we will reach out to the Treasurer to draw up checks for the appropriate agencies
- Draft a formal Announcement to distribute to the press
- Communicate to the 14 agencies our decisions
- Communicate to the congregation HICO's actions via email, the UUCSF website and a prospective Sunday service
- Start planning how to facilitate a broader relationship with agencies that express.

A Summary of the projects that will be awarded follows:

Grant Recipients and Projects

Organization: Shinnecock Indian Nation

Grant Request: \$28,300

Award: \$7,000

Focus 2020: Population Served: Seniors

Needs: Mental Health: Isolation/depression/access to social services

Town(s) Shinnecock Nation

Description: The Shinnecock Nation has a significant number of homes without internet or computers. COVID has made internet connectivity essential. Reduced hours/access to public facilities as well as restrictions on tribal gatherings have further exacerbated the problem. Seniors are increasingly isolated, unable to access vital information or file for services which now operate remotely. Door-to-door communication is not a viable option to serve an at-risk population.

Approved Project: The purchase of computers, modems, Wi-Fi access and technical assistance for selected elders. This will reduce the isolation of a vulnerable group. It will ensure that elders can remain connected with tribal activities, local government and faith communities. The access to social welfare programs as well as the internet provided services ranging from ordering of groceries and essential items to tele-healthcare are important positives. PAC feels that COVID makes internet access a basic human right. This vulnerable population will be well-served by gaining access for what we often take for granted.

Organization: Padoquohan Medicine Lodge

Grant Request: \$26,500

Award: \$7,000

Focus 2020: Population Served: Seniors Citizens and Essential Workers

Needs: Safe Shelter

Town(s): Shinnecock Nation

Description: Many homes of the Shinnecock Nation's seniors have become health hazards due to issues of mold, non-functioning cesspools, poor insulation and persistent leaks. In addition, some members of the Shinnecock Indian Nation who are essential workers need affordable housing. The east end housing shortage is magnified by the pandemic significantly increasing housing demand in our communities.

Approved Project: The grant will be used to fund direly needed repairs for elders within the Shinnecock Nation. It will start with the stabilizing and pumping overworked cesspools and move into providing materials and labor for the most pressing housing needs. The PAC believes that providing Shinnecock

seniors and essential workers with safe, clean and healthy homes is a human right and will allow them to live with dignity and be safe.

Organization: Butterfly Effect Project

Grant Request: \$5,175

Award: \$5,175

Focus 2020: Population Served: Intergenerational and racially mixed
Needs: Food Insecurity; improving dietary choices; community building

Town(s): Riverhead, South Hampton

Description: The Butterfly Effect Project has constructed a 10 raised bed Community Garden located on the grounds of the First Baptist Church in Riverhead. In nurturing a working garden, the project encourages food self-sufficiency, skills in gardening, food preparation and nutrition. However, the overarching goal is to change the dietary choices made by low income families leading to healthier lifestyles.

Approved Project: The Butterfly Effect Project is engaging a racially mixed group of young people and their families. They are creating a safe place where the community can come together planting, growing and harvesting fruits and vegetables. The enhanced food choices for low income families in the Riverhead/Southampton is an important positive for participants. Changes in dietary habits are essential for better health. The Community Garden will provide shared experiences for an intergenerational and racially mixed group and encourage positive community building. The PAC embraced the goals of reducing food insecurity; addressing poor dietary habits; involving young people and community healing.

Organization: OLA of Eastern Long Island

Grant Request: \$25,000

Award: \$ 7,000

Focus 2020: Population Served: Immigrants
Needs: Health/Mental Health

Town(s): Riverhead, South Hampton, East Hampton

Description: OLA works to create a more equitable East End for Latino immigrants. They seek to accomplish their mission through local programming and structural change, targeting a wide range of needs, from education and healthcare to police reform. Recent efforts have been directed toward strengthening mental health services for U.S. born and immigrant Latinx youth and families. COVID has heightened the need for these services as typical points of access and care, like school social workers, have become increasingly less available.

Approved Project: OLA will partner with organizations, such as schools, non-profits and houses of worship, to create a more expansive and streamlined referral system for mental health services on the

East End for Latinx youth and families. This will include a thorough intake and screening process and will help match clients with timely and needed support. In-person and telemedicine appointments will be made available. Furthermore, a counsel of youth will help shape the project development and implementation. This project aims to connect people with the services they need, foster mental health in our community, and decrease the marginalization of the Latinx immigrant population. PAC believes that mental health is a basic human right and we want to join OLA in making the East End more equitable.

Organization: East Hampton Meals on Wheels

Grant Request: \$10,000

Award: \$5,000

Focus 2020: Population Served: Seniors

Needs: Food Security and Health/Mental Health

Town(s): East Hampton

Description: Meals on Wheels (MOW) delivers two meals per day to residents of East Hampton who are homebound due to illness, injury and/or the pandemic.

Approved Project: Financial support to help MOW expand their capacity to meet an ever growing need. Since the start of COVID, MOW has doubled the number of clients served. As winter approaches, this number will no doubt continue to grow. In addition, the catering company that prepares the meals is locally owned and has become increasingly reliant on their MOW contract to stay afloat during this difficult economy. By funding this project, PAC will be helping homebound seniors, creating more food security on the East End, and supporting a local business and non-profit.

Organization: East End Food Institute

Grant Request: \$15,000

Award: \$5,000

Focus 2020: Population Served: Seniors & Essential Workers

Needs: Food Access

Town(s): Shinnecock Nation

Description: The east ends' food bounty is not accessible to all. Many in our community are unable to afford healthy, locally grown fresh food. The East End Food Institute's **Farm to Community** program brings together local food producers and community members in need of healthy food options.

The project supports our local farmers by purchasing surplus produce. Locally grown vegetable and fruits will be processed and frozen in their licensed kitchen on the Stony Brook Southampton campus. Food will be distributed to identified families on the Shinnecock Reservation.

Approved Project: East End Food Institute's goal is to provide 25 families from the Shinnecock Reservation with 5 lbs of frozen packaged food per week for 10 weeks. Healthy recipes will be provided to extend the impact into nutrition. Frozen food is ready to cook and can be used at any time the recipient is ready to prepare a meal. This is a joint project between the Padoquohan Medicine Lodge and the East End Food Institute. Padoquohan is identifying families in need and coordinating distribution. The Food Institute is expanding its current program to meet the needs of this underserved

community. The grant will cover projecting costs for purchasing, preserving and distributing the frozen produce.

Organization: East End Birth Network

Grant Request: \$23,000

Award: \$5,000

Focus 2020: Population Served: Minority Community including Immigrants
Needs: Health plus Mental Health via emotional support and caring

Town(s): 5 Towns & Shinnecock Nation

Description: Mortality rates for black and indigenous women are three to four times higher than white women across the country. East End infant mortality rates are some of the highest in NY State. High mortality rates reflect our profit driven health care system, systematic prejudices and a scarcity of services. Inadequate transportation, lack of vehicle access and long travel times are significant obstacles to obtaining care. The pandemic has exacerbated these problems. This project works to support year-round families as they transition through the vulnerable stages of pregnancy, birth, postpartum and early childhood.

Approved Project: The project is a mobile pop-up parent and baby pantry. The service will mirror a food pantry model with donated baby and maternity items being recycled to underserved prospective and new parents. “Bundles” for parents will include educational materials and small comfort items to assist through the various stages of becoming a new parent. The pop-up will be an efficient mechanism of rehoming baby items to people in need. The pop-ups are a unique response to the challenges of COVID-19. It allows for safe/outdoor interaction. And, being mobile the sites will vary each month. The pop-up will bring resources to different “communities” effectively. Partnerships to serve minority groups include Bridgehampton Child Care & Recreational Center, the Wuttuhminneoh Birthwork, OLA of Eastern LI and the Children’s Museum of the East End. These agencies are providing locations and churches are also being approached. The Black, Shinnecock Nation, Latinx and immigrant populations are disproportionately affected and most at risk.

Respectively Submitted to UUCSF’s Board of Trustees on September 29, 2020

Proposal Assessment Committee: Katie Hammond, Jeanne Hoeing, David Holstein and Lora Tucker
9/27/2020