June 26, 2019

**Bank of America Makes $500,000 Investment with Inland Empire Nonprofits**

**to Help Economically Disadvantaged Populations**

**on the Path to Long-Term Financial Stability**

*Grants to 49 organizations across region focus on sustainable careers, from youth employment opportunities to up-skilling current workforce for near-future demands*

**RIVERSIDE, CA** – Bank of America today announced $500,000 in grants to 49 Inland Empire nonprofits that will advance economic mobility for individuals and families and put them on a path toward financial stability. The grants fund resources for workforce development and education that help people chart a path to better economic futures, as well as or basic needs that are fundamental to building lifelong stability.

While the region has benefitted from the current economic growth, especially in job creation, a recent study by the [Brookings Institute](https://www.brookings.edu/research/advancing-opportunity-in-californias-inland-empire/) showed the Inland Empire in desperate need of greater job diversity in order to lift wages and close a fast growing income gap, noting over half - 54 percent - of the region’s jobs being “neither good nor promising, meaning they provide insufficient pay or benefits and no viable career pathway to good jobs.”

The local nonprofits receiving funding will help address two key factors improving financial stability: basic needs such as access to food, shelter and health services, and access to educational and workforce development services that either give young adults pathways to employment or provide additional opportunities for people to rebuild their careers ~~and lives~~ for better-paying work.

“The future of the region’s economy and making it sustainable begins with better pathways to educational attainment and a more skilled labor force, as more than 1.3 million of the Inland Empire’s workers lack a bachelor’s degree. But through strategic philanthropic investments into our incredible nonprofit network, Bank of America is deploying its capital to help connect teens and young adults to educational resources and the current workforce to advanced job skills training, especially for those from economically disadvantaged communities,” said Al Argüello, Inland Empire market president at Bank of America.

For example, the Riverside Community College District Foundation will utilize its $25,000 grant to support an initiative to increase the number of historically underrepresented populations, including women, veterans, foster youth and people with disabilities, pursuing STEM fields and careers.

Upland-based San Antonio Hospital Foundation will utilize its grant to resurrect a free educational program to disadvantaged high school students seeking a career in health sciences.

In Palm Desert, the Boys and Girls Club of Coachella Valley’s program will assist youth from low-income families with tutoring and homework help.

Other organizations receiving grants include: Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs, Coachella Valley Housing Coalition, Cove Communities Senior Association, Desert Aids Project, Galilee Center, Hidden Harvest, Jewish Family Services of the Desert, John F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, Marthas Village And Kitchen, Community Health Action Network, Desert Manna, Family Assistance Program, Moses House Ministries, Idyllwild Help Center, Mountain Communities Boys & Girls Club, Foothill Family Shelter, Hope Through Housing Foundation, Growing Inland Achievement, Oparc, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Inland Empire, Feeding America Riverside And San Bernardino Counties, Fox Riverside Theater Foundation, Inland Empire Rescue Mission, Inspire Life Skills Training, Operation Safe House, Positive Young People, Raincross Boxing Academy, Rebirth Homes, T H I N K Together, Voices For Children, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Redlands-Riverside, Catholic Charities, CASA of San Bernardino County, Childrens Fund, CAP of San Bernardino County, Crafton Hills College Foundation, Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council, Goodwill Industries of Southern California, Loma Linda University, Rewritten, Santa Claus Incorporated of Greater San Bernardino, Time For Change Foundation, Boys & Girls Club Of Southwest County, Community Pantry, and the Oak Grove Institute Foundation.

**Bank of America**
At Bank of America, we’re guided by a common purpose to help make financial lives better, through the power of every connection. We’re delivering on this through responsible growth with a focus on our environmental, social and governance (ESG) leadership. ESG is embedded across our eight lines of business and reflects how we help fuel the global economy, build trust and credibility, and represent a company that people want to work for, invest in and do business with. It’s demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our clients, and the impact we make around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships with nonprofits and advocacy groups, such as community, consumer and environmental organizations, to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at [about.bankofamerica.com](http://about.bankofamerica.com/), and connect with us on Twitter ([@BofA\_News](https://twitter.com/BofA_News)).

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