

July 22, 2024



Quarterly news

Working to make Imperial Valley a better place to live for ALL

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Note from Roque

Showing up and long-term commitment

Civic Hubs, also known as Rural Development Hubs, are defined as "trusted intermediaries that play an important place-based role in bringing people together across different communities and sectors to create shared vision, solutions, and distribute resources."



We are honored to have been recently nominated and selected as a Civic Hub. This work was made possible through the support of the [Trust for Civic Infrastructure](#), a sponsored project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

As both a grantmaker and Rural Development Hub, our focus is on addressing the needs and priorities identified by the communities we serve. We believe in the power of local wisdom and collaboration. By establishing critical connections and forming genuine relationships within our communities, we aim to support and enhance the capabilities already present. Often, we hear, "We've been waiting for someone to support and partner with us on the change we want to see." This sometimes requires us to "tool up," becoming the resource and support needed to help communities reach their goals and realize their visions.



Throughout my career working in rural communities across the country, I've observed that nonprofits and rural residents often wear many hats to fill the various roles necessary for progress. As a rural Foundation, IVWF is embracing multiple roles as both funder and civic hub to support community priorities and projects. Our approach is rooted in developing strong relationships and supporting locally-driven initiatives.

I firmly believe in showing up where I'm needed, doing what is required, and staying committed for as long as it takes. This commitment extends to nurturing the connections and relationships that are vital to community transformation guided by the insights and aspirations of our community residents.

**2024 Mission Support
Grant Applications are
Open - [APPLY NOW!](#)**

Open July 15 - August 15

Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation
(IVWF) aims to make the Imperial Valley
A Better Place to Live for All.



We recognize the importance and value of focusing on the quality of life for the residents of the Imperial County and want to support the work that many organizations are doing to address health and wellness, and community engagement in disinvested communities and especially with populations and groups that have been historically excluded from planning and decision-making. Additionally, we value the importance of the nonprofits that lead this work and are committed to supporting them in building capacity to carry out their work and mission.

We are inviting 501(c)(3) nonprofits to apply for [Mission Support](#) funding in the following three areas: 1) Health and Wellness, 2) Community Engagement, and 3) Nonprofit Capacity Building.

Applications open: Monday, July 15, 2024

Applications close: Thursday, August 15, 2024

Decisions and distribution: September 2024

[Apply Now!](#)

**ECO Groups Bring Joy and
Connection to Older Adults**

Creating a sense of belonging

Camaraderie filled the air at the recent Nurturing Communities of Care gatherings this spring. Our Equity Community Organizing (ECO) groups in Bombay Beach, Calipatria, Niland and Westmorland hosted gatherings that brought together older adults for dancing, laughing, learning and great conversations.



When we applied for this project, we knew that community building would be a major component.

However, we soon learned the profound impact of our gatherings. For many older adults, these events marked the first time they participated in a community activity since the pandemic. By design, each gathering is accessible, safe and welcoming for older adults, encouraging participation.

As we begin to meet with local organizations to share what we've learned through these ECO group gatherings, we aim to reframe older adults in our community as assets and sources of strength, while promoting communal forms of care and ensuring everyone has a lot of fun along the way.

The ECO work is supported by a grant from [The SCAN Foundation](#). The SCAN Foundation is dedicated to creating a society in which seniors receive medical treatment and human services that are integrated in the setting most appropriate to their needs. For more information, please visit www.TheSCANFoundation.org.

Pictured above: Enjoying cardio drumming at the Westmorland Senior de Mayo ECO Group event is Leonor Alicia Lara Mendoza of El Centro (left) and Sandra Camargo of Westmorland (right).

Niland Flooding (Sept 2023)

Relief funding update

Niland storm relief funding was set up for residents and businesses of Niland, California who suffered physical damage to their property during the storm event of September 2023. \$100,000 in relief funding came from [Citizens Energy Corporation](#) via [Imperial Irrigation District](#) to IVWF. IVWF served as the Fund Coordinator, administering the application and evaluation process. Applications closed May 17, 2024, and we're pleased to report that 54 applications were received. As of this date, all funding has been disbursed.

Imperial Valley Economic & Energy Summit

Advancing economic development in the Valley

During the three-day IV Economic & Energy Summit in Brawley in June, hosted by the [IV Economic Development Corporation](#), experts and leaders from top industries and regions gathered to discuss project updates and opportunities in Imperial Valley, as well as projects happening outside the region that might be viable in Imperial. Among the topics were geothermal, solar energy, Lithium Valley developments, transmission-broadband advancements, and clean transportation.

IVWF executive director Roque Barros attended the Summit and presented on the importance of Community Transformation. He talked about the critical elements necessary to achieve a high quality of life for everyone in the Imperial Valley. He shared that community transformation is a long-term process and that economic development is a catalyst for community transformation. "It's essential that economic development efforts are inclusive, sustainable, and aligned with the community's values and long-term vision," said Roque. For more on the event, see this [article](#) in the Imperial Valley Press.

Support Community Building

You helped us before and made a difference.

We need your help again.

We need your support as we continue to work with communities that want to be seen and heard by those who make the decisions that are impacting their lives!

DONATE TODAY



Sent by AHF on behalf of Imperial Valley Wellness Foundation (IVWF). Advancing the health and wellness of vulnerable populations in Imperial County.

www.ivwf.org

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