

Community Notebook: Palo Alto Community Fund gives largest grant total in its history

More than 300 community members including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation made contributions

by [Shawna Chen](#) / Palo Alto Weekly



Jose Cabrera stands in a conference room at **Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto**, where he received help with legal matters related to his rental unit and landlord. The nonprofit received a \$15,000 grant from the Palo Alto Community Fund. Photo by Veronica Weber.



The Palo Alto Community Fund (PACF) awarded more than \$406,000 in grants to 43 nonprofit organizations in the greater Palo Alto area this year, the largest amount ever it has ever given, according to a press release issued Tuesday from the organization.

PACF uses its annual endowment to provide support for local nonprofits and projects and has awarded more than \$4.6 million throughout its history. Founded in 1979 by six Palo Altans, PACF gives \$5,000 to \$15,000 grants to eight "impact categories": arts and culture; community development and social services; education; environment; health, mental health and disabilities; housing and nutrition; senior services; and youth and families. Every year, grant applications are received in early February and grantees are announced in May.

This year's grants were made possible through donations from more than 300 community members, PACF officials said in a press release. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and an anonymous local family foundation made generous contributions in particular.

"We continued to fund a diverse array of high impact, local nonprofit organizations, and, thanks to the unwavering support of the community, provided a record level of grants for critical programs in our area," PACF President Peter Gifford said in the press release.

The 2017 grantees cover a wide range of aims and purposes.

The Children's Health Council was awarded \$11,600 for its new Intensive Outpatient Program, a mental health initiative focused on youth ages 10-24 and their parents that will provide long-term therapy and counseling services.

All Students Matter received \$10,000 to develop a pilot math program for first- through third-grade students in the Ravenswood City School District, which district officials hope will help increase student self-esteem by nurturing students' math skills.

Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto will use its \$15,000 grant to educate and provide legal services to low-income residents facing housing issues. The organization, which helps community members maintain safe and affordable housing, has seen an increase in the need for its services due to the local housing crisis.

"Given the many needs that exist across our community, however, there is even more we'd like to accomplish," Gifford said. "We are intent on growing our grant-making capacity and look forward to deepening our engagement with the community and the many worthy organizations that serve it."

The complete list of grantees can be found on the PACF website.