



Hope begins with Health.

**DAP
Health**

In 1984, a group of grassroots volunteers recognized that a new, mysterious virus was sowing particular devastation in the LGBTQ+ population. They mobilized to found Desert AIDS Project (DAP) to make a real, lasting difference in the lives of all those who call the Coachella Valley home.

In the three dozen years since, the board, staff, and volunteers of DAP have persevered and prevailed in that mission. They've also ensured the non-profit — now DAP Health — would evolve into the revolutionary, award-winning, internationally renowned, multidisciplinary healthcare organization it is today. In the process, DAP Health devised a uniquely sweeping set of services and relationships.

proven to stabilize lives in times of crisis. Humanitarian, inclusive, courageous, inventive, and conscientious, **DAP Health understands that wellness brings hope, and that health equity leads to equality.**



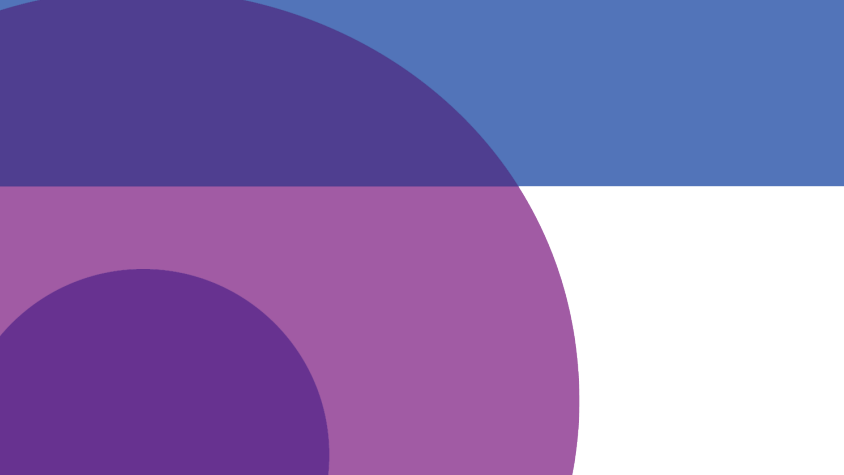
It should surprise no one that, benefitting from our vast experience and expertise in helping to quell and conquer the HIV/AIDS epidemic, DAP Health was among the first to recognize the disastrous local impact the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic would wield in our community. DAP Health clearly understood early that:



- › Uncertainty and isolation would breed fear, anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.
- › Disenfranchised populations — people of color, people living with HIV (PWH), and people living in poverty — would be at higher risk of joblessness, food insecurity, homelessness, lack of access to healthcare, sickness, and death.
- › Rates of substance abuse, relapse, and HIV transmission would spike.

- › Federal aid would bring only partial and temporary relief.
- › The need for our services would greatly increase.

DAP Health clearly understood early that we had to step up — that we had to pay invaluable lessons learned forward. And so, we did just that in a very big way.



Facing every challenge head-on, we harnessed our knowledge, bravery, compassion, and infrastructure for the greater good. We committed ourselves to the dual purpose of continuing to care for our 8,000 patients while also supplying support to all those in our community affected by the pandemic. Just a few of DAP Health's accomplishments in 2020 have included:

- › Establishing **one of California's first COVID-19 clinics** and its associated hotline.
- › Ensuring the staff and volunteer **delivery of food and other essential supplies to those in quarantine** following a positive coronavirus test.
- › Using the **MyChart virtual visits platform to offer telehealth visits** (by phone or online) for clients wary or unable to present themselves in person.
- › **Providing an increase in mobile testing** — for HIV, STDs, and the coronavirus — at remote locations throughout the Valley, meeting community members where they live, in such places as the James O. Jessie Highland Unity Center and the FIND Food Bank.
- › **Mailing HIV self-testing kits** upon demand.
- › Assisting newly **unemployed and/or uninsured individuals to access health insurance** or Medi-Cal through Covered California with DAP Health's One Call program.

DAP ACCOMPLISHED THIS WHILE ALSO PROVIDING:

- › More than **4,000 HIV tests**, giving lifesaving, expert guidance to individuals who received a positive diagnosis.
- › More than **1,300 Hepatitis C tests**.
 - › More than **7,000 therapy sessions** to help those with depression, anxiety or other mental health issues.
- › More than **700 substance abuse interventions**.
 - › More than **5,000 dental visits**.
- › More than **500 HIV test kits** to recovery centers and treatment facilities throughout the Valley.
 - › All of our health education materials in both **English and en español** on our website.

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON DAP HEALTH'S CLIENTS

Throughout 2020, DAP Health has regularly monitored the effects of the pandemic on our clients. A recent survey showed that:



66%

reported a stress level of 7 or more out of ten.

69%

reported that social distancing has negatively impacted their community (a number 30% greater than that of the global population).

41%

reported feelings of loneliness (a number 27% greater than that of the global population).

35%

reported feeling their job is at risk as a result of the pandemic.

29%

reported being unable to continue providing for their family (a number 42% higher than that of the general population).

24%

reported being worried they would be unable to afford basic supplies (a number more than double that of the general population).

Close to **40%**

reported not only feeling unsafe going out, but that members of their community are not well supported at this time (a number 40% larger than that of the general population).

With the coronavirus sure to continue its destructive path well into 2021, DAP Health remains resolute in our goal to expand our array of services even further. Your generous support will make it possible for the organization to meet the inevitable increases in community demand in the following areas:

General Access to Healthcare

DAP HEALTH IS COMMITTED TO:

- › **OFFERING** case management (traditionally reserved for our HIV-positive clients) to a broader segment of the community that may currently remain unconnected to care.
- › **MAKING** available a host of in-home services — a necessity since the beginning of the pandemic — to empower and protect the health of the community at large.
- › **EXPANDING** mobile clinic services across the Valley to meet the health needs of the Hispanic/Latino and Black communities, and other high-risk, underserved populations.
- › **PROVIDING** smart phones and WiFi access to clients unable to afford them so that telehealth visits can continue and increase.
- › Widely **DISTRIBUTING** HIV/HEPC self-testing kits.
- › **ENGAGING** in training programs to better educate healthcare professionals working in communities of color.
- › **BROADENING** dedicated women's healthcare services.
- › **RELAUNCHING** our all-volunteer Buddy Program, which will furnish crucial one-on-one connections to the most isolated in our community.





Behavioral Health

DAP HEALTH IS COMMITTED TO:

- › **DOUBLING** our ability to provide behavioral health services, including one-on-one counseling and support groups focusing on both general mental health and substance abuse recovery/relapse prevention, plus general wellness initiatives and socialization programs and activities (virtual and/or in-person but outdoors, masked, and socially distanced) to counter isolation.
- › **ACCELERATING** the build-out of our new behavioral health clinic.
- › **EMBARKING** on a program that will see psychiatry residents at the University of California Riverside join the existing team of mental health clinicians at DAP Health to provide expanded services.

Coronavirus Testing



DAP HEALTH IS COMMITTED TO:

- › **AUGMENTING** the capacity of our COVID-19 clinic — both in terms of technology and business days/hours — to test, counsel, and treat at least 15,000 people in 2021.
- › **INCREASING** mobile testing.
- › **INVESTING** in rapid testing technology.
- › **ADMINISTERING** a safe, proven vaccine now that it has been released.

Ongoing HIV/AIDS Care

DAP HEALTH IS COMMITTED TO:

- › **MULTIPLYING** our dissemination of mailed HIV self-testing kits.
- › **GROWING** our telehealth capabilities and offerings.
- › **DISPATCHING** phlebotomists into the homes of community members who would benefit from this service.
- › **DEVISING** an HIV medication patient assistance program similar to — and based upon — our successful initiative related to access to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV).



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Since its inception, DAP Health's every success has only been made possible thanks to the extraordinary, continued compassion and generosity of the Coachella Valley's philanthropic community. For that, DAP Health's gratitude knows no bounds.

If you would like to partner with us in the ambitious slate of initiatives proposed and outlined in this document — or if you have any questions — please do not hesitate to contact **Darrell L. Tucci**, CFRE, Chief Development Officer at dtucci@desertaidsproject.org or 760-285-6877.

On behalf of DAP Health's board, staff, volunteers, and clients, thank you for your consideration from the bottom of our hearts.

