

About this report

This report was prepared by The City Peace Project, mBOLDen Change's partner in the Student & Family Safety Net pilot with Alum Rock Union School District. It covers support provided from April to May 2026, plus two expenses from late March 2026 that mBOLDen Change agreed to cover before the official start date. Names and identifying details of families have been removed to protect their privacy.

mBOLDen Change & The City Peace Project: Alum Rock Union School District

Reporting Period: April 2, 2026 - May 31, 2026

Funding Amount: \$6,500

Through a partnership between mBOLDen Change and The City Peace Project, direct cash assistance was provided to families within the Alum Rock Union School District who were experiencing financial hardship. Funding was used to address critical needs identified by school and community partners, including housing stability, clothing, food, transportation, utilities, and other urgent family expenses.

1. Number of Recipients Served

Total Number of Recipients: 22

2. Aggregate Recipient Demographics

Demographic Category	Number Served
Total Households	22
Total Individuals Impacted	45
Students Served	22
McKinney-Vento Families	16
Spanish-Speaking Families	9
Other Languages	None
Elementary School Students	18
Middle School Students	4
High School Students	None

Additional demographic information:

- Gender Breakdown: 9 Male, 11 Female (since demographic information was optional information was not recorded for every transaction)

- Race/Ethnicity Breakdown: 14 hispanic/ latino (no other ethnicities recorded)

3. Distribution of Funds

Distribution Date	Number of Recipients	Amount Distributed	Primary Use of Funds
3/25/2026	1	\$450	Financial - Funeral
3/25/2026	1	\$350	Medical - Glasses for Student
4/22/2026	1	\$100	Clothing
5/12/2026	1	\$900	Financial
4/30/2026	1	\$150	Clothing
5/12/2026	1	\$250	Transportation
5/8/2026	1	\$100	Clothing
5/11/2026	5	\$500	Housing/ Rent
5/12/2026	2	\$500	Housing/ Rent
5/14/2026	2	\$400	Clothing
5/20/2026	2	\$150	Food, Clothing
5/20/2026	4	\$100	Food, Housing/ Rent, Clothing
5/20/2026	4	\$200	Transportation
5/20/2026	3	\$150	Food
5/20/2026	1	\$200	Medical - Glasses for Student
5/20/2026	1	\$100	School Supplies
5/20/2026	1	\$100	School Supplies
5/20/2026	1	\$100	School Supplies
5/20/2026	1	\$100	School Supplies
5/26/2026	1	\$500	Medical
5/26/2026	6	\$500	Housing/ Rent
5/29/2026	2	\$100	Food, Clothing
5/28/2026	2	\$500	Food, Housing/ Rent, Clothing

Total Distributed: \$6,500

Primary uses of assistance included:

- Housing and shelter-related expenses
- Clothing and school necessities
- Food and household essentials
- Transportation

- Utilities and emergency expenses
 - Other urgent family needs
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4. Observed Outcomes

The direct cash assistance program provided immediate financial relief to families facing significant economic hardship. Recipients reported that the assistance helped them meet essential needs, reduce financial stress, and improve their ability to plan and budget for future expenses.

Key outcomes observed include:

- Increased housing and family stability
 - Improved access to basic necessities
 - Reduced financial stress among participating families
 - Greater confidence in budgeting and financial decision-making
 - Increased engagement with financial literacy workshops and supportive services
 - Turnaround time was quick
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5. Lessons Learned

- Flexible cash assistance allows families to address their most urgent and individualized needs.
 - Combining financial assistance with financial literacy education increases the long-term impact of the program.
 - Families experiencing housing instability often require both immediate financial support and ongoing resource navigation.
 - Providing culturally and linguistically responsive services improves participation and outcomes.
 - The referral form and spreadsheet tracker we made were useful and important tools.
 - Unfortunately, a neighboring high school district is laying off most, if not all, of its Parent Community Involvement Specialists, who used to provide VTA hardship passes. So it was difficult for schools to provide support and a warm handoff to incoming high schoolers. ARUSD staff was stuck on how to support some families, but a few days later the partnership was brought up, and funding from TCPP and mBOLDen was able to fill this gap.
 - Super helpful support. Many of our funds are reserved for only our homeless families, so it was amazing to get support for families who do not qualify for the McKinney Vento program, but still have high needs.
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6. Recipient Testimonials and Impact Stories

Recipient: A mother of two students (8th grade and 5th grade)

Family Status: McKinney-Vento family, Spanish-speaking household

Assistance Received: \$400 for clothing

This family has demonstrated remarkable resilience while navigating medical challenges, housing instability, and transportation barriers. Despite residing in a shelter and commuting across town by public transit to maintain school attendance, both children remained engaged in school and prepared to celebrate significant academic milestones through their 8th-grade and 5th-grade promotion ceremonies. Direct cash assistance helped the family purchase clothing and shoes for these important events, ensuring both students could participate fully and celebrate their achievements alongside their peers.

The mother shared:

"We are facing a moment in our life like no other. We are in a shelter and have very low income and can't find a place. We are going through the second extension in our stay and it's stressful because I see the time ending and not having where to go with my family.

The financial help I have received helped me a lot to know how to make a budget and do my best to stay in it, but at the same time it's preparing myself for the time I have a regular income to know how to use money wisely. I really appreciate the financial workshops."

This family's experience demonstrates how direct cash assistance, combined with financial education, can help families navigate periods of crisis while building skills for long-term financial stability.

Recipient: A mother of two, returning to work after a serious illness

Assistance Received: \$150 gift card for food and clothing

This family demonstrated remarkable perseverance while navigating a period of significant financial and emotional hardship. After a serious illness, she began the process of returning to work but encountered unexpected delays in securing employment, leaving the family with limited income and ongoing uncertainty. As the sole provider for her two children, she faced the daily challenge of meeting her family's basic needs while managing the stress of recovery and financial instability.

Direct financial assistance provided critical support during this difficult transition, helping the family purchase essential food and clothing while easing some of the immediate financial pressure. The assistance created much-needed stability, allowing her to focus on her family's well-being and recovery rather than constantly worrying about how to make ends meet.

She shared:

"When my family received this assistance, I was going through one of the most difficult periods of time in my life. I was carrying a lot of stress and uncertainty, and it often felt like I was trying to stay afloat while facing challenge after challenge. There were many nights I spent worrying about how I would make everything work and provide for my two kids.

The financial assistance gave us more than just help with expenses—it gave us breathing room during a time when we felt overwhelmed. It allowed us to focus on my family's well-being instead of constantly worrying about how I would get through the next week. Knowing that someone cared enough to help lifted a big weight off my shoulders and reminded me that my kids and I are not alone.

The support made a real difference in our lives. It brought comfort, stability, and hope during a time when we desperately needed all three. I want others to understand that programs like this do much more than provide financial help—they give families dignity, relief, and the chance to keep moving forward when life feels incredibly hard and impossible. We are deeply grateful for the kindness and support my family has received.”

This family's experience highlights how direct cash assistance can provide immediate relief during periods of recovery and financial uncertainty. Beyond meeting basic needs, the support helped restore a sense of stability, dignity, and hope, enabling a parent facing extraordinary challenges to continue moving forward while caring for her children.

Additional Testimonials

- Quote from an ARUSD McKinney Vento mom of two elementary students: “I wanted to send you this note. Thank you so much for the check. It helped me pay my bills and get some food, which is very helpful, and I’m grateful for it because it helped me through the rest of the month.”
- Quote from a formerly homeless ARUSD family, single mother of three (translated from Spanish): “We were able to find stable housing after being evicted, but we were completely broke after the rental deposit. This gift card helped with food and gas for my family. It was perfect timing.”
- Quote from a grandmother and caregiver of three (translated from Spanish): “Thank you so much, and may God bless you. I take care of my three grandchildren, and I am disabled. My oldest grandchild was going to high school next year, and I didn’t know how I was going to get him to school. With this check, I will be able to pay his bus tickets for a few months.”
- Several of the families referred by ARUSD had already either exhausted other resources or did not qualify. For example, one of the students who needed glasses had already exhausted the two pairs Medi-Cal approves per year. As this is a younger student, her glasses often break. Mom shared she would usually purchase a new pair after Medi-Cal can no longer cover it; however, with newborns at home, financially it was not possible at that time.
- Several students were able to use the funds for their graduation clothes and supplies. Quote from one parent recipient: “Thank you so much for your and TCPP support. This year has been so difficult and the kids were so happy to have new clothes and shoes for their graduations.” This family had lost their home this year after a work injury. Both parents have medical complications that have made working difficult. They were staying in temporary housing far from school and used all of their finances for gas to get the kids to school. They have been so dedicated to their children’s schooling throughout all their barriers. Both children were promoting, one from 5th grade into middle school and one from 8th grade to high school. We

were able to provide financial assistance to purchase new outfits including shoes for them to wear during their promotion ceremonies. This meant a great deal for the family to be able to celebrate and acknowledge their children for all their hard work and dedication over the last year.

- A Mom was referred for support as she was experiencing severe tooth pain with no dental insurance. She had attempted to access care and paid out of pocket at a community based clinic but reported that it was not helpful and could not function completing daily tasks due to the amount of pain she was in. The financial support allowed her the opportunity to schedule an emergency same day appointment at a dental clinic and use her remaining \$50 to pay upfront for the assessment fee. With the quick turnaround time with this assistance, she was able to be reimbursed for her \$50 and have the funds to obtain pain medication and antibiotics. This was life quality changing for her and with this assistance was able to schedule the follow up appointment to get treatment.

Conclusion

The partnership between mBOLDen Change and Alum Rock Union School District successfully delivered direct financial assistance to families experiencing economic hardship. The funding provided immediate relief for essential needs while supporting long-term financial stability through education and resource connection. Recipient feedback demonstrates the meaningful impact of flexible cash assistance on family well-being, housing stability, and overall resilience.

Report prepared by The City Peace Project. Public version shared by mBOLDen Change with identifying details removed.