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The North Valley Community Foundation is unveiling a grant program to help organizations reward workers who are serving vulnerable populations.

The NVCF COVID-19 Employee Care Grant Program is for nonprofits that serve at-risk populations (especially social workers and case managers) and residential care facilities. Companies and organizations in Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Colusa counties can apply for grants that reward employees with self-care initiatives or gestures.

With the coronavirus pandemic complicating an already difficult year, many of these workers think of themselves last. This grant helps employers reward these front-line workers.

"We are always looking for ways to help the helpers, and those helpers have never been more heroic than during this pandemic," said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, NVCF president and CEO. "This program allows organizations and assisted-living facilities to apply for funding to support the workers in our communities so deserving of love and care."

Ideas could include staff appreciation events on Zoom, a delivered meal, virtual yoga or exercise classes, group meditation sessions, exercise equipment, gratitude gifts and other self-care ideas. All options will be considered by an NVCF grant approval committee.

The grants will range from \$100 to \$5,000 based on staff size. Organizations must apply rather than individuals. For information on eligibility and a link to the application, go to <https://www.nvcf.org/covid-19-employee-care-grant>.

Applications are open now and the application period will close Jan. 15.