



SUPPORTING LOCAL
NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
SERVING OUR REGION'S
MOST VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS.

Contact: The Chicago Community Trust – Nina Alcacio, 773-484-6718, nalcacio@cct.org
United Way of Metro Chicago – Kiara Goodwin, 312-906-2291, kiara.goodwin@liveunitedchicago.org
Mayor's Press Office – Jordan Troy, 312-744-9206, jordan.troy@cityofchicago.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund Approves Additional \$5.3 million To Support Chicago Nonprofits

103 nonprofits receiving funds to help those in need and bolster frontline responses to the health crisis

CHICAGO (April 8, 2020) – The *Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund* has approved an additional \$5.3 million in grants to 103 local nonprofit organizations responding to the immediate needs of neighbors facing instability in the metropolitan Chicago region. The awards will increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations that are providing access to essential services such as emergency food and supplies, health services, and financial assistance through direct cash transfers, as well as mortgage, rent and utility assistance.

Chicago, the city of broad shoulders, continues to live up to its legacy as individuals, philanthropy, government, businesses and local sports teams have joined forces to raise \$21 million for the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund. To date, the Fund, established by The Chicago Community Trust and United Way of Metro Chicago in partnership with the City of Chicago, has issued two rounds of grant support to over 140 organizations totaling more than \$8.8 million.

“COVID-19 has uncovered the longstanding inequities that exist amongst families experiencing poverty and instability in our region,” said Dr. Helene Gayle, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust, who is also an expert in disease control and emergency response. “As needs continue to grow, we know it’s going to take all of these resources and much more in addressing the emergent needs, especially among communities most in need of support as we continue to deploy emergency assistance rapidly.”

With almost 300,000 Illinoisans currently unemployed, the need for additional services and support continues to increase. The full extent of the impact of the coronavirus is unknown. However, the need for resources will undoubtedly persist for months to come as the number of cases rise and the ripple effects are felt throughout our economy and healthcare system. As the pandemic continues to unfold, the Fund will adapt later rounds of grant-making to meet the evolving needs of the community.

The 103 local nonprofit organizations approved to receive grant support from the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund in the second round of funding serve the most vulnerable populations across the city of Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. These organizations include Thresholds, Beyond Hunger, Erie Neighborhood House, El Valor, Franciscan Outreach, PLOWS Council on Aging and Chinese Mutual Aid Association, among others. The full list of grantees can be found at chicagocovid19responsefund.org.

“Nonprofit employees and volunteers are among the heroes of today. These essential workers are on the frontlines, bravely serving their community in this time of great need and uncertainty,” said Sean Garrett, president and CEO of United Way of Metro Chicago. “For many of our neighbors it is lifesaving work. We are proud to support them and committed to doing all we can to ensure that they have the resources they need throughout this health and economic crisis.”

The third round of funding will be announced in the coming days. Local nonprofits are encouraged to visit the Fund's website and submit information to be considered for future rounds of funding. Applications will be assessed on an ongoing basis as the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund continues to make additional rounds of grants.

The application process and the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund is governed by a Steering Committee comprised of 15 local leaders and experts representing the business and philanthropy sector. The committee is tasked with approving grant recommendations and leading the Fund's overall strategy as the impact of the pandemic on the region continues to evolve.

The Fund is supported by more than 2,400 online donors as well as more than 90 partners from philanthropy, business and Chicago's local sports teams. Founders of the fund have expanded to include The Allstate Foundation, Bank of America, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois, Enova, First Midwest Bank, Peoples Gas Community Fund and PNC. To see a full list of supporters visit <https://chicagocovid19responsefund.org/donors.html>.

Individuals and organizations can contribute and find additional information about the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund by visiting www.chicagocovid19responsefund.org.

About The Chicago Community Trust

The Chicago Community Trust is a community foundation dedicated to strengthening the Chicago region and improving the lives of the people who call it home. For more than 100 years, the Trust has served as a trusted philanthropic partner, connecting the generosity of donors with community needs by making grants to nonprofit organizations working to create lasting change. Following the creation of a new strategic plan in 2019, the Trust stands committed to addressing Chicago's legacy of systemic inequity and closing the racial and ethnic wealth gap, while continuing to respond to the critical needs of our most vulnerable residents. The Trust administers more than \$360 million in annual grant making as part of its commitment to equity, opportunity and prosperity for the Chicago region. To learn more, visit cct.org.

About United Way of Metro Chicago

United Way of Metro Chicago brings together businesses, government, nonprofits, and community leaders to deliver funding, resources, and expertise to nonprofit organizations across greater Chicago. We are working alongside our partners at the neighborhood level to tackle the systemic issues that have plagued our region, creating communities where children and families can thrive. United Way's Neighborhood Network Initiative supports and coordinates investment and programming in 10 city and suburban communities to address community challenges and improve the lives of residents. United, we're building stronger neighborhoods for a stronger Chicago region. For more information, visit LIVEUNITEDchicago.org.

333 S. Wabash Ave. 30th Floor | Chicago, Illinois 60604 | ChicagoCOVID19ResponseFund.org

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