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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORCESTER TOGETHER'S PHASE THREE, REIMAGINING, LAUNCHES WITH FOCUS ON BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS, CHANGING WAYS COMMUNITIES THINK

WORCESTER, MA – In its third and final phase, the Worcester Together: Central Massachusetts COVID-19 Fund is seeking bold and innovative ideas to help Central Massachusetts organizations engage in systems change.

Applications are currently being accepted on the Greater Worcester Community Foundation [website](#). In this final stage of the Worcester Together fund, a total of \$1 million will be awarded through a limited number of major grants.

The grants review team would like to see applications which examine the root causes of inequities and include draft plans to disrupt the systems that uphold them. Additionally, organizations or collaborations which plan to reduce barriers and create more robust, equitable, and sustainable systems benefiting all people in our communities will be most successful.

“As we approach the final phase of Worcester Together, we are looking for proposals that seek to influence and update those ways of thinking that create hurdles and continue to challenge our community,” said Barbara G. Fields, GWCF president and CEO.

Concurring, Tim Garvin, United Way of Central Massachusetts president and CEO, suggests nonprofits “be bold” in their applications. “We are inviting the nonprofit community to dream with us about the things they want to change. The Reimagining phase is designed to be aspirational and help bring some of these dreams to fruition,” he said.

Letters of intent are due to the Foundation by 5:00 p.m. EST on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. Invitations to submit full applications will be sent Friday, Dec. 11 followed by a deadline of Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 for all application materials to be received by the Foundation.

Grant awards will be announced in early February 2021.

For more information on who and what are eligible in this phase, a description of systems change, and to apply, visit greaterworcester.org/Grants/Grant-Opportunities/COVID-19-Fund-Grants.

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Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The Greater Worcester Community Foundation (GWCF) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Central Massachusetts residents by connecting donors to high-impact nonprofit organizations and community partners. Since 1975, GWCF has worked in partnership with donors to build a nearly \$160 million endowment and award more than \$142 million in grants to help transform communities and build a strong and vibrant region. We apply our knowledge, relationships, and resources to our work every day therein combining passion and discipline to pursue a vision of Worcester’s success that works for everyone. For more information, visit www.greaterworcester.org.

United Way of Central Massachusetts

Every day, for the past 100 years, United Way of Central Massachusetts works to improve the community and break the cycle of poverty by connecting people and resources. The entire community benefits when its most vulnerable members find a way out of crisis, children are able to learn, people are healthy, and parents earn enough money to support a stable family. Our donors and supporters contribute \$5 million each year, which gets invested into programs and initiatives with a proven track record of results. For more information, visit unitedwaycm.org.