



## ILLINOIS COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

The United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor, are establishing the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund (ICRF) to raise funds from individual, corporate, and foundation donors to be disbursed to nonprofit organizations across the state serving individuals, families and communities hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This fund, to be chaired by former US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, will swiftly deploy additional financial resources to local community foundations and nonprofits to support residents in need of:

- emergency food and basic supplies
- interim housing and shelter
- primary health care services
- utility and financial assistance
- supports for school children and other vulnerable populations, and
- nonprofit safety and operations assistance.

This fund will work in tandem with other funds set up around the state ensuring that resources go where they are needed most.

Illinois is blessed with strong local nonprofit organizations and community foundations that serve our region's most vulnerable neighbors. In this moment of unprecedented demand, it's critical that these organizations have the resources they need to continue to operate at the highest capacity. Your donation will support the agencies that are ensuring our neighbors can access basic needs in this time of crisis.

### Key Points:

- For those familiar with the Chicago COVID-19 Response Fund: this is separate from that effort but follows its structure and involves some of the same organizational leaders. It will operate in close coordination to ensure all areas of the state are being served.
- Penny Pritzker will chair the work of the ICRF. There will be three groups of statewide leaders ensuring that funds are deployed with speed and impact:
  - *Steering Committee:* governing body of 10-12 philanthropic, social sector, and corporate leaders determining overall strategy and approving grants.
  - *Grantmaking Working Group:* 10-15 members with expertise in social/human service grantmaking and deep knowledge of all parts of the state; will prepare grant recommendations for the Steering Committee.
  - *Founders Table:* a group of significant contributors, civic leaders, public sector leaders and other stakeholders mobilizing around COVID-19 around the state. Group will offer insights on strategy and evolving priorities and provide critical feedback on areas for future action.
- The leadership of the United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations is critical and leverages the strong capacity and knowledge that exists around the state in the form of local United Way affiliates and local community foundations. The ICRF will take advantage of that infrastructure to get money out fast to meet the immediate pressing needs Illinois communities are facing.
- The aim is to raise enough anchor funding that the Governor can announce the ICRF early this week. We would be grateful for any commitment you can make as soon as possible. If you can give us a verbal commitment for a dollar amount and permission to include your name publicly in our list of contributors, we can work with you this week on executing the gift.
- Donations will go to the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund and will be processed by the United Way of IL and AICF, with administrative support from United Way of Chicago and the Chicago Community Trust.