



RAPID RESPONSE EMERGENCY GRANTS OF UP TO \$25,000 TO ADDRESS COVID-19

Grants for Nonprofit Organizations in the Foundation's Local Service Region
Applications May Be Submitted on a Rolling Basis through May 29, 2020

Grant Background

As a community foundation, the [Partnership for Better Health](#) strives to serve as a catalyst, advocate and collaborator to establish health as a shared priority, toward ensuring that everyone has what they need for good health. Our mission is to champion and invest in ideas, initiatives and collaborations that improve the health of the people and communities in our region. We work closely with key stakeholders throughout Central and Western Cumberland County, Perry County, Northern Adams County and the Greater Shippensburg Area.

In March of 2020, the World Health Organization announced a global pandemic and the first cases of novel coronavirus in Pennsylvania quickly began to multiply. Recognizing the unprecedented health emergency facing our communities, the Partnership for Better Health is making Rapid Response Emergency Grants available to local nonprofit organizations, to assist them in responding to the threat of COVID-19. Grants are expected to range between \$2,000 and \$25,000. **Funding priorities** include the four pressing issues below.

1. **Basic Health & Human Needs:** Grants are available to assist health and human service organizations in responding to the emergency needs of vulnerable community members by ensuring that they continue to have access to nutritious food, healthcare and related basic needs. Funds may also be used to offer increased mental health, substance use disorder and social-emotional services, and to ensure clean, protected or virtual settings for the delivery of these services.
2. **Emergency Responders:** Grants are available to assist nonprofit emergency responders with the purchase of essential health supplies, protective gear and equipment to keep them safe and highly effective as they address the COVID-19 crisis.
3. **Homeless Residents:** Grants will help housing providers and shelters respond to increased demand for emergency housing services and outreach, social distancing practices and safe quarantine environments.
4. **Newly Unemployed & Rental Assistance:** Grants will support agencies in assisting workers who have been laid off, lost income and/or become newly unemployed as a result of COVID-19. For people who live paycheck to paycheck, lost wages swiftly make paying for essential housing difficult to maintain. Workers in the local retail, restaurant, hospitality, travel and entertainment industries, as well as independent gig workers, are especially vulnerable. These grants will position nonprofits to provide direct financial assistance to help residents meet immediate needs, such as rent. To maximize limited

funds, individual grants of aid should not exceed one-time assistance of \$800 per household. All grantees using funds for rental assistance are expected to make awards directly to landlords and must request the landlord or property manager's tax ID number to ensure that landlords who own or manage multiple units/facilities are not incentivized more than twice.

Agencies assisting the newly under- and unemployed are expected to provide individuals with direct guidance on the host of resources and financial survival strategies that are now available to them through federal and state aid, as well as area social service agencies and our region's 211 call center.

Of note, homeowners who have lost income or employment—and have home mortgages that are backed by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac or the Federal Housing Administration—will benefit from the new federal moratorium on foreclosures for up to one year. Similarly, protections to prevent utility shut-offs for displaced workers are also firmly in place. The federal government's \$2.2 trillion aid package includes direct payments to adults (of up to \$1200) and \$500 per child. It also expands unemployment benefits in Pennsylvania (which presently cover—on average—50 percent of workers' pay for up to 26 weeks) by adding an additional payment of up to \$600 per week, for up to 13 weeks. The [Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#) mandates expanded paid sick leave, medical leave and family leave for workers affected by COVID-19. Share [flyers like this](#) to educate your clients and ensure their access to these expanded benefits.

All grant support to the newly unemployed should be accompanied by your agency's sharing of high-quality information about employment assistance locations and local job opportunities. Amidst the epidemic, having enough healthy workers to keep life-sustaining products moving through our warehouses and onto store shelves and doorsteps is a vital public service. Employment referrals should include proactively referring adults to:

- [PA CareerLink's](#) employment assistance office in Carlisle;
- Online job portals like these, which feature local positions: [Indeed](#), [CareerBuilder](#), [LinkedIn](#), [ZipRecruiter](#); and
- Direct referrals to local employers that are hiring workers: [Amazon](#), [CVS](#), [Giant Food Stores](#), [Glaxo Smith Kline](#), [Rite Aid](#), [UPS](#) and [Walmart](#).

Eligible Applicants

Organizations with significant experience serving vulnerable populations in the foundation's geographic region of Central and Western Cumberland County, Perry County, Northern Adams County and Greater Shippensburg are invited to apply for grants of up to \$25,000. Priority will be given to applicants that:

1. Are nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations;
2. Have a proven track record of success in providing emergency, health or human services to individuals in need;
3. Have the ability to reach and serve large numbers of community members (40 to 100 or more people), and have the ability to serve high-risk populations including older adults, people with underlying health conditions, low-income residents and health care workers; and
4. Document a compelling strategy to mobilize funds efficiently and fairly within 90 days, including a lean and effective screening process to equitably award financial assistance grants, if

applicable.

5. Priority will be given to applicants that do not duplicate other funds that are available to your organization through mandated, tax-funded services that you already provide, or county, state and federal emergency COVID-19 aid bills.
6. Priority will be given to applicants that are existing or previous community partners or grant agencies of the Partnership for Better Health.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis through May 29, 2020 to the Partnership for Better Health. A lean application form is shared below. We anticipate that the needs generated by the pandemic may exceed the availability of Rapid Response Grants to address them this spring. With this in mind, Partnership for Better Health will consider a second round of emergency grants in the summer or fall, if warranted.

If your organization has identified other urgent needs that do not fit the eligibility criteria and four focused priorities listed above, please feel free to contact our grants staff by email (shared at the top of page 4) and include a brief description of your interests. We may be able to provide other local referrals and suggestions to further support your efforts.

Grant Requirements

All services and resource distribution must benefit local community members who live in Central and Western Cumberland County, Perry County, Northern Adams County and the Greater Shippensburg Area.

The foundation will require grantees to document the use of funds, estimated impact and lessons learned using a simple two-page report template that will be provided upon award.

To Apply for Funding

The Partnership for Better Health accepts all applications online. Our electronic system is used for each step of the grant process, including completion of your application and final grant report. Please review the tips below before applying for the first time.

Application Instructions for New 2020 Emergency Grants

- Determine if your organization and the project you are proposing meet our general eligibility requirements.
- Visit our online [grants management system](#).
 - If you've never used our system before, select "Create New Account."
 - If you are a returning grantee, supply your email address and password to access the system.
 - Select "Apply" in the top navigation bar.
- On the next page, enter the following access code in the upper right corner – "COVID."
- On the next page, select "Apply" in the Foundation Initiative box.

- Complete the Organizational Information:
 - Project Name
 - Project Description
 - Amount Requested
 - Geographic Area
 - Funding Type – select “Emergency”
 - Core Funding Area – select “Strategic Initiatives”
- Upload your completed “**Application Form & Budget for 2020 Emergency Grants**” as a pdf document in our online system under “Project Information” and skip “Evaluation Plan” and “Budget” sections.
- Under Attachments, only complete a W-9, scan as PDF and upload where indicated.
- Once you submit your application, you will receive an automatic email reply from our grants system. One of our grants directors will be in touch with any clarifying questions.

Awards will be considered on a rolling basis until May 29, 2020. Feel free to direct grant questions to our Director of Grants & Public Policy, Carol Thornton (Carol@ForBetterHealthPA.org), and/or to our Director of Health Promotion, Gail Witwer (GWitwer@ForBetterHealthPA.org).

Final Thoughts

Please Assist with Coordinated Public Communications about COVID-19

To successfully prevent and minimize the spread of COVID-19, we also urge your organization to regularly display flyers and/or distribute online resources about the disease for the purpose of public education. If you’re on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other sites, or if you have a webpage or public wall space, please share these easy-to-post resources.

- Stop the spread of germs: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>
- 10 ways to manage respiratory symptoms at home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/10Things.pdf>
- What to do if you are sick with coronavirus? <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>
- Coronavirus Fact Sheet: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/2019-ncov-factsheet.pdf>
- More CDC Post-ables can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>
- *Social Media link:* How To Be Ready for COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/get-ready.html>
- *Social Media link:* What is social distancing and how can it slow the spread of coronavirus? <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/03/13/what-is-social-distancing/>

Information about COVID-19 continues to evolve rapidly. Stay up to date and find other shareable health education materials using these trusted sources.

[Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/)

[PA Department of Health](https://www.health.pa.gov/)

[World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/)

Application Form & Budget for 2020 Emergency Grants

I. Organizational Overview

*In just a couple of paragraphs, describe your organization's mission, the population you serve, your geographic reach and your **current** staff and/or hands-on volunteer capacity.*

II. Program Needs

Describe the distinct challenges your organization and community face in addressing the threats of COVID-19 in Central PA and how this grant will help you to address them.

III. Program Strategies

Describe your program outreach or service delivery strategy for this grant? Please be specific in answering:

- a. *How will you identify individuals for assistance with your supports? How will people learn about your offerings?*
- b. *How will you equitably screen, track and prioritize candidates for your assistance?*
- c. *How many individuals do you anticipate serving with this grant?*
- d. *What is your timeline of activities for deploying grant funds within 90 days? When do you anticipate funds will be expended?*

IV. Budget

Provide a budget detailing how you intend to use the grant funds. Nonprofits are urged to be prudent and not apply for more funds than can be rapidly deployed within three months. Any unspent funds must be accounted for and returned to the foundation.

Other Funding Tips: Grant applicants are also urged to review other emergency COVID-19 funding opportunities through [United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County](#) , [Wellspan Health's Slow the Spread Grants](#), and The Foundation for Enhancing Communities & United Way of the Capital Region's [COVID-19 Community Response Fund](#). Emergency funds from state and federal aid packages for organizations are also available. Pennsylvania has made [low-interest loans available to nonprofits](#) (2.75% interest rate) and small businesses (3.75% interest rate) through the U.S. Small Business Administration. To find a host of additional state resources for individuals, nonprofits and businesses, visit [Pennsylvania's COVID-19 Resource Site](#).

