

Across the region, the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 are rising and the situation is rapidly evolving. While we continue to assess this public health emergency, we do know a few things: 1) Low-income communities and hourly wage workers, particularly people of color, will be disproportionately impacted; 2) People experiencing homelessness and direct service providers face unique health risks and needs; 3) Senior citizens and people with underlying health conditions are considered some of the most vulnerable to the coronavirus; and 4) Nonprofits are facing loss of revenue due to the cancellation of major fundraising events, lack of volunteers to assist with providing services, and lack of access to additional supplies. We also know that school closures and remote work/study arrangements are creating challenges linked to childcare, technology access, and a general disruption in everyday life.

In close collaboration with our partners in philanthropy, The Community Foundation has launched and provided initial funding for the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. This Fund will serve as a mechanism to collect donations which will support emergency preparedness and response, and help mitigate the impact on disproportionately affected communities in our region.

Priority populations include:

- Out of school children and youth
- Low-income hourly and gig workers and small business owners
- People in shelters and/or experiencing homelessness
- Health needs of direct service providers and impacted populations without healthcare access

With the information available to us, our funding priorities* are connected to:

- Access to childcare for low-income families
- Supply needs and emergency preparedness efforts throughout the region
- Immediate needs of priority populations linked to closures and cancellations due to COVID-19
- The economic impact of reduced wages and lost work
- Support to organizations providing medical care access to marginalized communities
- Support to shelters, homeless service providers, and street outreach teams

**Please note that as the crisis evolves and we learn more, funding priorities may change.*

Join Us

We invite the philanthropic community to join us as partners in this effort. This situation is evolving, and we will need a broad range of support over the period ahead to be flexible in responding to this community crisis. As a donor in our community, you can help inform our grantmaking strategy by posing ways to address this crisis. We encourage you to reach out and share specific focus areas that the Fund should support.

To make a donation, [click here](#) or contact Tonia Wellons, Interim President & CEO at twellons@thecommunityfoundation.org, or Melen Hagos, Manager of Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships at mhagos@thecommunityfoundation.org.