

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund?

While much of the impact of COVID-19 is still unknown, the ramifications will be ongoing and severe for our community's most vulnerable. This funders collaborative that includes the Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Corning Incorporated Foundation, Triangle Fund in honor of Amo Houghton, United Way of the Southern Tier, and generous local donors was created to support the efforts of nonprofit organizations on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis that are facing increased demand for community-based human services and to invest in our essential workers.

What are the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund's initial priorities?

The COVID-19 Unity Response Fund invites proposals from nonprofits that focus on basic needs, support for vulnerable populations, and easing the burden on essential workers.

The COVID-19 Unity Response Fund is looking for proposals from non-profit organizations that:

1. Have projects in place that will be operational immediately after funding is awarded.
2. Focus on immediate response.
3. Serve Chemung, Schuyler and/or Steuben counties.

What are examples of eligible activities?

Examples of eligible activities include but are not limited to:

1. Decreasing food insecurity (and the need for other essential items such as toiletries.)
2. Helping essential workers to continue to work by supporting childcare, transportation, and other unanticipated challenges related to maintaining a robust essential workforce during this crisis.
3. Providing mental health services to support the community in a time of social distancing and essential workers.

Will the priorities change?

We anticipate the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund's priorities will change as the situation unfolds and communities' needs and responses from various entities change. We cannot anticipate when the priorities will change as we cannot predict exactly how and when the impact of the novel coronavirus on our community will shift. Our commitment to the community is that the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund will remain nimble in order to continue to meet communities' needs throughout the response and recovery process.

What is the eligibility criteria organizations must meet to receive a grant?

Based upon the charitable structure of the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund, our grants are limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools and other public entities. We are

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not able to fund individuals or businesses directly, labor unions, or 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations.

I'm an individual who's been affected by COVID-19. Can the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund help me?

No, the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund cannot award grants to individuals. The COVID-19 Unity Response Fund is awarding grants to community based organizations directly supporting local residents and families who are most affected by emerging economic and health impacts. As we begin to award grants, we will post information about them on our websites.

If you are looking for resources now, please call 2-1-1, a full-service contact center which connects people to the assistance they need to address everyday challenges of living as well as those that develop during emergencies. 2-1-1 is free and confidential.

Is there a geographic area of focus for the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund?

Yes. Organizations must be located and providing services in one of these New York counties to receive a grant from the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund: Chemung, Schuyler, and/or Steuben.

What size grants will the COVID-19 unity Response Fund make?

Award amounts will vary based on organizational capacity, scope of services provided, community needs and total resources available, but applicants are encouraged to apply for \$1,000 - \$25,000.

How long will these grants last?

Grant periods will vary based on the grant size, scope of services provided by the grantee and the community's needs, but all recipients that receive funding before May 1, 2020 will be expected to complete a grant evaluation by August 31, 2020.

What is the grantee selection process?

Eligible organizations in the geographic area supported by the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund that are providing services aligned with the Fund's initial priorities are encouraged to apply [here](#).

A diverse team of volunteer community members representing a wealth of professional and personal experience will review each application and make funding recommendations on a rolling basis.

When will grant awards be made?

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on April 1, 2020. This cycle will close when all funds have been awarded or seven days after non-essential workers are permitted to return to work by Executive Order of the New York State Governor.

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Who will process the grants (send the funds out to nonprofit organizations)?

The Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes will administer grants from the Fund.

How can I find out which nonprofits the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund has supported?

Information about grant awards will be shared weekly via the Community Foundation's eNews bulletin and posted on the websites of all the funding partners. We hope that this transparency will help the community navigate available resources.

Who is making the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund possible?

As of 4/1/2020, the following organizations have committed resources to the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund: Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Corning Incorporated Foundation, Triangle Fund in honor of Amo Houghton, United Way of the Southern Tier, and generous local donors.

I want to donate. Who should I send my donation to?

Click [here](#) to contribute online.

If you would prefer to donate by check, please send it to:

COVID-19 Unity Response Fund
301 South Main Street
Horseheads, NY 14845

Can I restrict my contribution to a specific organization?

Our hope is that the COVID-19 Unity Response Fund is able to meet needs detailed in the initial priorities section. Donations earmarked for specific organizations will not be considered at this time. We recognize the programmatic parameters of the funding may not meet the philanthropic wishes of all donors, so in those cases we encourage donors to give directly to organizations that align with their giving goals.

For more information, please contact:

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Phone inquiries can be addressed by calling the Community Foundation at 607.739.3900.

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