

COVID-19 Response Fund Brief

Prepared November 2021



Hartford Foundation
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

In response to the public health and economic crises that emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving launched coordinated fundraising and emergency grantmaking functions in March 2020.

275

grants awarded

>\$10.7M

of funding awarded

558

donations to the Fund



Grantmaking Phases

- Phase I responded to **immediate needs created as a result of the pandemic** and community lockdowns. Grants provided funding for emergency basic human needs, health and safety of vulnerable populations and emergency operating support to critical nonprofits and neighborhood small businesses.
- Phase II broadened types of nonprofits eligible to receive grants beyond basic human needs. This funding focused on the **costs needed to reopen safely**.
- Phase III narrowed the Fund's grantmaking focus to **vaccine equity and learning loss**, while the Foundation's regular grantmaking addressed recovery from the pandemic.

Grant Highlights

Small Business Emergency Micro Grant Program: In partnership with the City of Hartford, Capital for Change, Travelers, Bank of America, HEDCO, and others, this program awarded small grants averaging \$7,500 to neighborhood small businesses, primarily those owned by women and people of color, that struggled to remain viable during COVID.

Arts and Culture Institution Grants: The Foundation supported the reopening of arts and culture institutions in targeted ways, including a partnership with Greater Hartford Arts Council to support PPE purchases and a grant to ScholarScripts for reopening capacity building activities.

Vaccine Education and Outreach: In response to disparities in vaccination, the Foundation awarded 10 grants totaling \$826,545 to municipal health departments, federally qualified health centers and hospitals serving areas with the largest numbers of people of color in Greater Hartford for enhanced outreach and partnership with trusted providers.

Hispanic Health Council Grant: A \$100,000 grant to the Hispanic Health Council directly supported undocumented families that were not eligible to receive stimulus or other benefits offered throughout the pandemic.

Moving Forward

- Elements of our COVID-19 grantmaking process made funding more accessible to nonprofits, especially smaller nonprofits that we did not have relationships with prior to the pandemic. The Foundation has incorporated several of these elements (streamlined application process, publicly available rubrics, trust-based processes, and more) in our general grantmaking and continues to learn from our crisis response efforts.
- The Foundation continues to explore our unique role in filling gaps, with an eye towards equity, as federal recovery dollars make their way into communities.



To read the full report, visit: hfpg.org/covidreport