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Hartford Foundation
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

Newsletter

May 2020



Our COVID-19 Response: Addressing Race, Place & Income Disparities During and After the Crisis

In March 2020, the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving launched the **COVID-19 Response Fund** to rapidly deploy resources to support residents who are most significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

During this period, we've been astounded by the generosity of the Greater Hartford community. The COVID-19 Response Fund has received **\$3.55 million in donations**, with **more than 250 gifts** ranging from \$15 to \$1 million. Donor-advised funds at the Hartford Foundation have contributed \$1.8 million, and we've received more than a dozen corporate donations, with an average gift of \$47,000.

Because of this generosity, over the past 8 weeks we've been able to award **grants totaling \$5.3 million** to **more than 100 local**

[organizations](#) that are providing basic human needs and other critical services to residents with the greatest need.

Last year, when our Foundation was finalizing our latest strategic plan, we chose to focus on addressing the most persistent disparities in our region. We know that disparities related to [Race, Place and Income](#) were the biggest barriers to creating a more inclusive and thriving Greater Hartford. The COVID-19 crisis has exposed and exacerbated these disparities; the pandemic has taken [a disproportionate toll on Black and Latinx residents](#) precisely because of the pre-existing inequities in our community and nationwide.

As our state begins to re-open, and we slowly regain some sense of normalcy, it's important to recognize that some residents will be affected by this crisis for months, perhaps years to come. While we continue to address urgent needs arising from the pandemic, we're also paying attention to the potential long-term impacts. We are more committed than ever to our goal of reducing disparities across Greater Hartford and supporting our most vulnerable residents; before, during and after this crisis.

As always, we appreciate the health care workers, emergency personnel, supermarket and food service workers, delivery people and others who have kept our community functioning during this difficult time. We hope everyone stays safe and takes proper precautions as we navigate this crisis together.

Visit our COVID-19 Response Fund website: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

What Our Donors Are Saying About the COVID-19 Response Fund

"I was so pleased to learn that the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving had established a COVID-19 Fund. At a time when I was feeling helpless and overwhelmed with sadness, I knew that the Foundation would use its knowledge, expertise and values to respond to the things that mattered most to me - equity, humanity, and empowerment."

-Yvette Meléndez, South Glastonbury

"When news of the COVID-19 virus began to spread, I started thinking about all the people who find themselves jobless, hungry, homeless or in danger of becoming homeless through no fault of

their own. I realized just how fortunate I am to have my needs met and decided to help the people living near me who are not in my position. I think highly of the Hartford Foundation, so when I read an article in the paper about their new COVID-19 Response Fund, I called and spoke to them about making a donation. It is reassuring to know that my gift is being put to work here in Greater Hartford."

-Peggy Miller, Bloomfield

If you would like to contribute to our response effort, you [can donate to the COVID-19 Response fund here](#).

COVID-19 Response Fund: Grantee Stories

Foodshare

As the regional food bank serving Hartford and Tolland Counties, Foodshare already plays a vital role in our community. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, they've seen demand increase by 35%. They've set up a massive, weeks-long food drive at Rentschler Field in East Hartford, where they each day they see 1,500 cars and give away 30,000 pounds of food. [Read more about Foodshare's response to the crisis.](#)



Hands on Hartford

Hands on Hartford has provided for basic human needs of our region's residents for more than 50 years. When the COVID-19 crisis began, they quickly shifted from serving seated community meals to providing meals to go, and reimagined their food pantry to provide pre-bagged groceries. At the same time, they're planning for a future demand increase that could come in the fall. [Read more about Hands on Hartford's response to the crisis.](#)



[Click here to read more COVID-19 Response Fund Grantee Stories](#)

COVID-19 Articles

- [Here's what to know about coronavirus testing in Connecticut](#)
- [Phase 2 of Connecticut reopening set to begin in June](#)
- [Frustration growing in minority communities over government response to pandemic](#)
- [Exit 43 podcast: Why the coronavirus is killing more black people](#)
- [Homeowners get 90-day pass on mortgage, but renters still owe rent](#)
- [By the numbers: The economic damage to Connecticut caused by coronavirus](#)
- [COVID-19 loosens its grip, for now](#)
- [The cities we need: Addressing inequality](#)

Census 2020: Be Counted!

As part of the Hartford Foundation's commitment to support civic and resident engagement, we are funding local nonprofits' efforts to increase participation in the 2020 Census. The Census determines federal funding for public transportation, educational grants, housing assistance and much more. It's critical that everyone in our state is counted. We recently worked with the City of Hartford to produce Census 2020 Public Service Announcements in English and Spanish.



Watch the videos: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Webinar: Nonprofit Fundraising During a Pandemic

On May 11, the Hartford Foundation's Nonprofit Support Program hosted its first ever large webinar for nonprofits. Fundraising guru Jeff Brooks helped attendees learn how to be more effective fundraisers during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. For those who are interested, a recording of the webinar and slides are available on our [COVID-19 Resources page](#) under the Webinars tab.

Questions? Email us: hartfordfoundation@hfpg.org



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