

Directory of Foundation Responses to COVID-19

- **Amalgamated Foundation:** Setting up a low-wage worker rapid response fund - will be public by end of week. Also supporting the Emergent Fund People's Bailout:
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/emergent-peoples-bailout>
- **Arcus Foundation:**
 - flexibility in deliverables
 - Open to discuss with grantee changing project support to gen op (although a majority of our grants are gen op)
 - Open to shifting timelines of grants and payment dates as needed
 - Reimbursing grantees with up to \$500 immediate cost for any tech need (zoom licenses and beyond).
- **Brooklyn Community Foundation:**
 - Launched the Brooklyn COVID-19 Respond Fund to address immediate, short term and long term needs. <https://brooklyncommunityfoundation.submittable.com/submit/1749cf7f-8bf6-49bc-922b-e74eaf522945/brooklyn-covid-19-response-fund-open-call>;
 - Postponed reporting deadlines
- **California Endowment (TCE):**
 - Exploring moving project grants to General Operating;
 - Moving up payments. Expediting reviews.
 - Other considerations forthcoming tomorrow and I can update then.
- **Communities for Just Schools Fund (CJSF):**
 - Coordinating with our friends at FCYO, AEJ, CPD around strategy webinar
 - Also working with our grantee partners to [collate all of the ideas](#) they've shared with many of us in a space where they can comment as new ideas/emerging needs/mid-term and long-term strategies and concerns arise/evolve.
- **Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta**
 - Established COVID19 response fund in partnership with United Way of Greater Atlanta <http://cfigreateratlanta.org/2020/03/17/covid-fund/>
 - Shifting focus of Arts funding to support the gaps in the capacity of arts organizations adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19. Gaps include unanticipated interruptions in business operations resulting in decreased earned revenue, disruptions in fundraising, impacts from interruptions in state and/or local government programs or services and the impact of volunteering in an age of social distancing.
- **Community Foundation of Monterey County:** Allowing grantees to request that their restricted (non-capacity building) grants be converted into general operating support grants.
- **Compton Foundation**
 - Offering to move project grants to unrestricted; as most grants are already unrestricted, affirming to grantees that they should be used in whatever way is most useful for their staff and constituencies in this moment
 - Reaching out to all organizations currently invited to submit a proposal to offer flexibility in the timing and/or proposal process
 - Pushing back all scheduled grant reports to end of July
 - Offering rapid-response emergency grants and/or support in seeking funds elsewhere
- **Cricket Island Foundation**
 - Releasing grantees from any CIF-related meetings and calls (unless requested by grantee).

- Releasing rapid response funds for technology and other COVID-19 related needs.
- Acting as allies and advocates for grantees as they try to adapt to current realities.
- Sharing resources out with grantees as we become aware of them.
- Coordinating with other funders to strategize about how to help grantees move to remote work.
- **Daphne Foundation:**
 - Paused all Daphne related meeting for grantees
 - Advocating for other funders to move program support to general support, plus additional grant flexibilities.
 - Grantees are receiving \$3,000 for immediate/emergency response
 - Setting up for wire transfers.
 - Grantees continue to have access to financial scenario planning through Fun with Financials.
- **Funders Collaborative on Youth Organizing (FCYO)**
 - Extended grant deadline.
 - Working with partners to host a webinar for youth organizing groups. Sharing resource guides.
 - Collecting and sharing resources from funder members.
- **East Bay Community Foundation (EBCF)**
 - Explore expanding endowment spending policy with Board
 - Identifying and raising up community leaders exhibiting people-centered leadership, community resiliency, positive wellness/mental health/healing -- many from communities of color, formerly incarcerated, artist activists acting creatively
 - Partnering with peer community foundations to support Silicon Valley Community Foundation's [COVID-19 Coronavirus Regional Response Fund](#) for *immediate health-related needs* in Bay Area region.
 - Identified the lead organizations for Alameda and Contra Costa County: [Community Initiatives](#) and [Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation](#), which identified strategies that they must quickly scale up, to track, test, and treat rising COVID-19 infections, particularly in vulnerable populations.
 - Launched the [COVID-19: A Just East Bay Response Fund](#), to initially resource orgs providing services for vulnerable pops on economic security in the East Bay, incl:
 - Loss of employment and decreased hourly work, resulting in reduced income
 - Closures of schools and childcare centers (resulting in lost earnings as parents must take time off to care for children)
 - Increased health care costs for testing and treatment, and loss of income as individuals are forced to take time off for self-care and to care for family members
 - Food insecurity resulting from lower individual and family income
 - Reduced access to a range of social services and programs, in response to social distancing requirements.
- **Elmina B. Sewall Foundation (Sewall Foundation)**
 - Any and all current, active grants from the Sewall Foundation can be used as an unrestricted grant. If your grant is specific to a program, event or project, the Sewall Foundation is authorizing that the grant funds be used as needed to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic. We are not defining what it means to use the funds to respond to COVID 19 and trust you to make that determination.
 - Grants will not be rescinded if a grant-funded program or event is canceled or postponed.
 - We are working to expedite payment of 2020 grants.
 - ALL final and progress reports due in 2020 are now waived. You do not need to submit a report to be in good standing or to receive a next payment (if you have a multi-year

- grant). If you would like to share a report or story about your work at a later date, we would welcome that, but know that the requirement is waived.
- All grant extension requests are pre-approved; please continue with your work and update the Foundation at a later date when convenient for you.
- **Elmezzi Foundation:** Sent grantee communication reassuring grantees that we are here to support. Also, talking to the board about all grants this year as GOS.
 - **Four Freedoms Fund/NEO:**
 - Loosen or eliminate restrictions on current grants, including offering to change project support to general support for maximum flexibility, no-cost extensions, and offering to move any report deadlines.
 - Doing a short 5-10min needs assessment survey to gauge best ways to help. Likely to make grants through our rapid response fund.
 - Sharing a list of resources (virtual webinars, trainings, essays, blogs) and updating it regularly and disseminating to grantees.
 - **Ford Foundation** is working with partners to
 - Loosen or eliminate restrictions on current grants. This can include: converting project-based grants to unrestricted support; accelerating payment schedules; and not holding grantees responsible if conferences, events, and other project deliverables must be postponed or canceled.
 - When we make new grants, make as many of them as possible in the form of unrestricted support, so that nonprofit partners have maximum flexibility to respond to this crisis.
 - Reduce what we ask of our nonprofit partners, postponing reporting requirements, site visits, and other demands on their time.
 - Contribute to community-based emergency response funds, including funds that have already launched
 - **General Service Foundation**
 - It is very early stage and we are just checking in as a team, but we had already planned to make grants early this year.
 - We default to general support, and are thinking about the additional needs of many of the groups that we fund that work with particularly vulnerable populations like day laborers, domestic workers, Walmart and other retail workers, who are not covered by many of these supports and policies.
 - **Hazen Foundation**
 - Providing zoom licenses to all grantees
 - Flexibility on reporting deadlines
 - Reassurance of their flexibility to use general operating support grants
 - Assessing grantee needs to see if we can offer more
 - Collecting and sharing out info on strategies and resources that could be useful to grantees
 - **Hill Snowdon:**
 - We have some small discretionary and rapid response grants available in addition to the general support grants we make. We are also trying to figure out what else we can contribute. In addition, we use the www.justfund.us portal that centralizes social justice funders, indiv donors and proposals from orgs across the country. It was set up in 2017 to provide rapid response grants and is now being used for a lot of gotv work.
 - **Korean American Community Foundation**
 - Converted program grants to general operating grants;

- Offered individual zoom pro-level accounts and paying it ourselves to avoid reimbursement process;
- Reassured grantees we'll be with them for the long haul
- **Kresge Foundation**
 - Providing reimbursements for travel.
 - Paying for access to technology (e.g Zoom).
 - Switching from project support to general operating support.
 - Allowing budget modifications and reallocation of funds.
 - Relaxing reporting and grant deadlines.
 - Directly supporting orgs for canceled conferences.
 - Increasing the frequency of grant payments to alleviate cash flow challenges.
 - Moving up or moving back payment dates depending on needs.
- **Mass Cultural Council** is allowing grantees to request extensions and modifications due to COVID-19 complications. <https://massculturalcouncil.org/covid-19-resources/>
- **Meyer Memorial Trust**
 - As we make new grants, make as many of them as possible in the form of unrestricted support;
 - Reduce asks of our nonprofit partners: postponing reporting requirements, site visits, and other demands on their time;
 - Contribute to community-based emergency response funds and ensure an equity lens is part of the response
- **Northwest Health Foundation**
 - Convert all open NWHF* project grants and sponsorships to general operating support, retroactively to the grant start date.
 - Defer all grant reports for 90 days automatically.
 - Accelerate all grant payments due before June 30 to ASAP. We hope to have checks out in the next week.
 - Contribute any noncommitted grant resources to rapid response funds and/or increase open grant amounts. Because we make multi-year grant commitments to organizations, this represents about 10% of our grantmaking budget.
- **North Star Fund**
 - Hosting office hours for grantees to talk through needs and concerns
 - Continuing our rapid response funding for breaking political issues (i.e. forcing elected officials to make the right policy calls)
 - Exploring what type of additional support we could make available for emergency funding
 - Considering how to shift our current open grant cycles to make things easier for grantees
 - Trying to connect with other funders who want to support NYC/HV organizing groups & share strategies
- **Robert Sterling Clark Foundation**
 - Honor current funding commitments to our grantees.
 - Add one additional year of funding to every grant.
 - Relax the timing of grant reporting.
 - Offer virtual office hours to talk through any issues
 - Provide a one-year subscription to the Zoom video conferencing platform
 - Explore short-term responses with other funders. A number of pooled funds or collaborations are being discussed and we'll engage in those conversations.

- Advocate within the philanthropic community to convert project-based grants to unrestricted ones to provide more flexibility to grantees. And we will continue to share and promote trust-based practices – especially general operating support.
- **Social Innovation Forum:** helping nonprofits feel connected to one another and have a place to feel heard and supported
- **Stonewall Community Foundation:**
 - Fundraising for our Emergency Fund from our donors;
 - Providing Zoom licenses for grantees;
 - Extended deadline on a current RFP;
 - Emailed grantees to reassure them and ask what they need.
- **Tides Foundation** is exploring launching a fund to support our fiscally sponsored projects who are the most vulnerable to an economic downturn, and will work with our donor community and existing funders of those projects to address urgent needs, leveraging a matching fund to encourage those donors and funders to join in the effort.
- **Tinker Foundation**
 - Communicated to grantees our willingness to modify/extend grant timeframes and payment schedules as well as reporting demands and schedules
 - Assessing impacts of COVID-19 on individual grantees' ability to provide deliverables as well as the unique services/talents grantees can apply in these circumstances
 - Acknowledging challenge to completing activities such as conferences and other in-person events and confirming our willingness to redirect grant funds to other project activities
 - Reviewing need for Zoom or other video conferencing licenses among grantees to support virtual meetings
- **Universal Health Care Foundation of CT**
 - Recasting communications strategy to focus on how the crisis highlights the need for universal health care. Involving partners in development of this strategy and messaging over the next few months. Need to use it to build public demand for state policies to be enacted to protect people.

Things Funders want to do but need to have internal convos to move:

- **Creating New Crisis Response Funds or Rapid Response Grants:**
 - Emergency funds
 - Launching a rapid response fund for both current and former grantees
 - Establish a fund in collaboration with other funders to support organizations in the long term. An ecosystem approach to address things such as lack of technology and ability of organizations to continue to pay staff (salaried and hourly), etc.
 - FCYO: small grants (or just purchasing) tech and software
 - **Universal Basic Crisis Response Grant:** Contemplating a guaranteed minimum grant (supplemental) that we send out to all of the our groups (small grant of \$5k or so)
 - Determining how to distribute emergency funds;
 - **Ford Foundation** is exploring the launch of a new fund housed at Amalgamated to confront the economic crisis facing workers, their families, and communities.
 - **Short Term:** Focusing on workers who are struggling due to the pandemic and its ripple effects—perhaps they are sick, unable to work, and do not

have paid leave; or maybe they are healthy but have been laid off by businesses that had to shut down.

- *Long Term:* we will support the development of new ideas and coalitions to ensure an equitable and participatory response to the economic downturn. We will bring an equity lens to this fund's grants, understanding that income, race, immigration status, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, geography, and ability all shape how people are affected by crises and need to inform responses.
- Funders for a Just economy is having a call tomorrow to discuss the creation of a fund specifically for low wage workers (see Amalgamated Fdn too). Contact Manisha@nfg.org if you want to join call

- **Grantmaking Practices:**

- Making all 2021 grants as General Operating Support Grants
- Offer bridge grants to current grantee partners who are cycling out this year; offer smaller grants to direct service organizations that work with the elderly and low-income families to boost their work
- Considering doing grantmaking/applications via phone conversations with program officers - no physical application needed
- moving project grants to general operating grants
- Rethinking our grant program that supports summer interns to rethink timeline and requirements\
- Advocate to ensure inability to meet forecasted service and activity numbers do not preclude payment of govt contracts

- **Seizing The Movement Moment**

- Exploring how to lift up this moment as a the time to make bold demands around economic justice, racial justice and needed systemic change, advancing an affirmative narrative
 - See Funders for a Just Economy for more info on this
- Interested: Sam Kiyomi, Kresge Foundation
- Organizing with grantees and other funders to push forward specific advocacy agendas (e.g., loosening deliverable requirements tied to city government reimbursement, payment schedules, etc.) - Amy Chou (achou@bcfny.org)
- Supporting grantee partners who are advocating for important public policy changes to fight the pandemic, such as expanded paid sick leave, access to affordable health care, and expanded income and rental assistance. This support can include lending our voice to calls to action led by grantee partners, at their direction and request.

Some barriers Funders are facing to take action and what would you need to overcome those obstacles:

- **Fear of Stock Market Losses**

- Board fear related to stock market losses and **direct advice from investment consultants to freeze expenses**
- Endowment value due to stock market losses

- **Fulfilling multi-year commitments:**

- Fulfilling our multi-year commitments with grant agreements if our investments go down and being able to create funding opportunities for our more vulnerable grantee partners
 - As a community foundation with no endowment, we have to fundraise in the current economic climate and there are concerns that we won't be able to fulfill our soft 3-year grant commitments if we are aggressive in our spending right now
- **Clarity from Grantees on needs**, both intermediate and long term. Crisis unfolding in real time.