

# Frequently Asked Questions Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund Relief Fund to Provide Immediate Support to Those Most in Need



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## What is the purpose of the Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund?

United Way of Greater Atlanta and the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta have joined together to establish a Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (COVID-19 Fund) to provide flexible resources to organizations working with communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic consequences.

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

The COVID-19 Fund will award grants to organizations supporting families with young children and children on free and reduced lunch and individuals without health insurance, access to sick days or access to healthcare; low-wage workers including hospitality, service industry and gig economy workers. Initial priorities will focus on the immediate needs of economically vulnerable populations resulting from closures and support community safety nets such as food insecurity, rent and utility assistance, medical supports and childcare. Additional priorities are the educational and emotional needs of children and youth across our region; and the needs of vulnerable seniors throughout the region.

This fund will also support the gaps in the capacity of our existing non-profit partners adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19. Gaps include unanticipated interruptions in business operations, impacts from interruptions in state and/or local government programs or services and the impact of volunteering in an age of social distancing.

## Funding Priority Areas

- Childcare
- Education
- Emergency Financial Assistance
- Food
- Health
- Housing
- Small Business Supports

## Will the priorities change?

We anticipate the COVID-19 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 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?

To be eligible to receive a grant, organizations must:

- Be classified by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) of the I.R.S. code as a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, donations to which are deductible as charitable contributions under Section 170 (c)(2) or have a fiscal sponsor that qualifies as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. I.R.S. determination must be current.
- Be located and providing services in one of these counties: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding and Walton, or the City of Atlanta;
- Be registered with the Georgia Secretary of State as a nonprofit (click here to verify: [ecorp.sos.ga.gov/BusinessSearch](http://ecorp.sos.ga.gov/BusinessSearch));
- Have strong relationships and trust in the community.

## Are any organizations designated by the IRS as 501(c) organizations eligible to receive grants?

Based upon the charitable structure of the COVID-19 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, faith-based organizations, and other public entities. We are 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 Fund help me?

No, the COVID-19 Fund cannot award grants to individuals. The COVID-19 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 reach out to United Way of Greater Atlanta's 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. United Way 2-1-1 is free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year in 140 different languages.

Ways to connect to 2-1-1:

- Text the keyword "211od" to 898-211 to receive Corona Virus resources
- Dial 2-1-1 and speak with a Community Connection Specialist
- Visit [211online.unitedwayatlanta.org](http://211online.unitedwayatlanta.org) and search our comprehensive database or chat with a Community Connection Specialist
- Email a Community Connection Specialist at [contact211@unitedwayatlanta.org](mailto:contact211@unitedwayatlanta.org)
- Download the 2-1-1 mobile app to access our comprehensive database

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

Yes. Organizations must be located and providing services in one of these counties to receive a grant from the COVID-19 Fund: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Morgan, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, Rockdale, Spalding and Walton, or City of Atlanta.

## What kinds of grants will the COVID-19 Fund award?

The Fund will award general operating support grants. United Way and Community Foundation's leaders understand that operating support that offers the greatest flexibility is what nonprofits need most. The COVID-19 Fund's grants may be used to pay for any expenses associated with serving the community including direct services, salaries of staff who provide direct services, salaries of administrative staff, etc.

### **What size grants will the COVID-19 Fund make?**

Award amounts will vary based on organizational capacity, scope of services provided, community needs and total resources available.

### **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.

### **How will the COVID-19 Fund complement the state and federal response?**

United Way and Community Foundation staff will solicit guidance on potential recipients from community partners to identify organizations currently providing or receiving requests for support aligned with the priorities of the Fund. This includes working closely with the State of Georgia's Coronavirus Task Force Committee for Homeless and Displaced Persons, and other state and federal supports that are to be issued in the coming days and weeks.

### **What is the grantee selection process?**

United Way and Community Foundation staff will solicit guidance on potential recipients from community partners to identify organizations currently providing or receiving requests for support aligned with the priorities of the Fund. This includes working closely with the State of Georgia's Coronavirus Task Force and other county and state committees.

United Way and Community Foundation staff will proactively identify potential grant recipients based on communities' needs, solicit guidance on potential recipients from community advisors, and recommend final awards to the Advisory Committee which will make the final decisions. United Way will administer grants from the Fund.

### **When will grant awards be made?**

Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak and recovery phases of the crisis, making it possible to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs in subsequent funding phases. We anticipate making the first round of investments the week of March 23, 2020.

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

United Way will administer grants from the Fund via wire transfers in order for nonprofits to receive the funds as quickly as possible.

### **How can I find out which nonprofits the COVID-19 Fund has supported?**

Information about selected grantees will be posted on United Way and the Community Foundation's websites, including short descriptions of the services and support they are providing. We hope that this transparency will help the community navigate available resources.

### **My organization is serving people affected by COVID-19. How can we be considered?**

We understand the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting nonprofits in many ways, including increased demand for services and loss of revenue due to closures and event cancellations. In order to move resources quickly, organizations are initially requested to share their needs on an online portal that will go live the week of March 30. Initially, this information will be used to inform grantmaking. Organizations may be asked to submit additional information to be considered for funding.

Please note that this is the initial process for funding. A more structured process to request funding will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

## Who is making the COVID-19 Fund possible?

As of 3/25/2020, the following organizations have committed resources to the COVID-19 Fund: United Way of Greater Atlanta, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Wells Fargo, Global Payments, The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, The Primerica Foundation, Truist Foundation and 11Alive, WXIA-TV & the TEGNA Foundation. Additionally, more than nearly 500 individuals have made contributions as well.

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

Contributions may be made to either United Way of Greater Atlanta or the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta. Click [here](#) to contribute.

## Can I restrict my contribution to a specific organization?

Our hope is that the COVID-19 Fund is able to meet needs wherever they arise in the region. We recognize the geographic parameters of the funding of some of our donors, however, donations earmarked for specific organizations will not be considered at this time.

## For more information, please contact:

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