

COVID-19
Rapid Response and Recovery Fund



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation

Frequently Asked Questions

April 1, 2020

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's dedication to engaging people and mobilizing resources to secure our community remains steadfast. In response to the COVID-19 global health emergency, the Foundation's leaders and Board of Directors have established the **Rapid Response and Recovery Fund**. In our initial round of fundraising, the Foundation has seeded \$50,000, and will provide an additional \$100,000 1:1 match with generous gifts from our donor base. Fundraising and grant-making will continue on a rolling basis throughout the outbreak and recovery phase of this crisis.

What will my donation support?

Our Foundation team is identifying existing and emerging needs on a daily basis, in collaboration with local, regional, and state organizations coordinating pandemic response. We are consistently hearing that nonprofit organizations on the front lines of essential human services are greatly suffering from decreased staff and volunteers, yet increased need for community members.

Our immediate focus is on the health, safety and well-being of our most vulnerable populations: those that are food-insecure, lack permanent housing, our senior population, and our healthcare workers. Our priority services for these community members are currently identified as the following:

- Food
- Shelter
- Mental health
- Physical health & safety
- Childcare support

The pandemic's impact on our community is constantly evolving. Our team and fund is set up to continuously evaluate and respond quickly to new, unforeseen complications in the weeks and months to come. As our fund grows, we anticipate providing broader support to ensure our community's resilience, and stand by our vision of a vibrant, sustainable, and caring community.

I want to make a donation, can I restrict it to a specific need?

The Rapid Response and Recovery Fund is unrestricted, to allow for efficient, nimble resources to be allocated and pivoted to areas of need as quickly as possible. We are unable to restrict dollars in the fund to any one particular organization or priority area. We encourage you to continue to support your passion and interests by directly donating to your organization of choice, and consider a contribution to the Rapid Response and Recovery Fund as a supplemental gift, for the greater good of our community.

Should I give to this fund, instead of making other donations?

Please continue to give to the organizations you regularly support. Our nonprofit community is suffering greatly from cancellations of fundraising events and other face-to-face gatherings they depend on for general operating revenue. Their work is concentrated on the populations they serve, our friends and neighbors, with less staff and volunteers and even greater demands. The Rapid Response and Recovery Fund has been created to move vital funding to where it is needed most, thanks to our understanding and expertise of community needs in collaboration and communication with these organizations on the front line. If this fund aligns with your values, we welcome your contribution, to allow us to double down on support for these vital health and human service organizations.

How do I give?

- Donations can be made directly **online [HERE](#)**.
- We also accept checks, and gifts from donor advisor funds, IRAs, gifts of stock, and other assets.
- Please see our **gift instructions [HERE](#)**.
- Contact Rhea Yap, Senior Philanthropic Advisor, with questions or concerns: **ryap@oprfcf.org**

Can an individual or family apply for support?

At this time the fund cannot directly grant to individuals or families in times of need. Based upon the charitable structure of the fund, our grants are limited to tax-exempt 501c3 organizations. As the impact of COVID-19 is better understood and our fundraising efforts continue, we anticipate awarding grants to nonprofit organizations that provide financial assistance to individuals, such as rental assistance. We are deeply committed to all of our community members, and offer connections to updated resources and information on our home page of our website: **www.oprfcf.org**.

My organization is looking for funding, how can we apply for a grant?

In order to move resources quickly, we are not hosting a formal application process for the Rapid Response and Recovery Fund at this time. Our staff is working diligently in collaboration with local, regional, and state organizations coordinating pandemic response, to identify our most pressing needs. Our priority at this initial funding stage is specifically for organizations serving our most vulnerable populations: those that are food-insecure, lack permanent housing, our senior population, and our healthcare workers. If you would like to learn more, or share how you are responding to the needs of our community during this health crisis, please contact our Program Director, Elizabeth Chadri: **echadri@oprfcf.org**

What is this fund doing for our local business community?

At this time the fund cannot directly grant to business owners in times of need. Based upon the charitable structure of the fund, our grants are limited to tax-exempt 501c3 organizations. Yet we recognize the pandemic's impact on our community is constantly evolving. Our team and fund is set up to continuously evaluate and respond quickly to new, unforeseen complications in the weeks and months to come. We stand by our vision of a vibrant, sustainable, and caring community. We are deeply committed to all of our community members, and offer connections to updated resources and information on our home page of our website: **www.oprfcf.org**.