

COVID-19
Rapid Response and Recovery Fund



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation

Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation Announces Rapid Response and Recovery Fund Grants for COVID-19

OAK PARK, IL (APRIL 21, 2020) – The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation (OPRFCF) today announced its first round of Rapid Response and Recovery Fund grants, totaling \$190,000. The grants provide much-needed funds to social impact organizations that are on the front lines providing daily, ongoing support to the community’s most vulnerable members during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the elderly, the economically at-risk and those with health concerns.

The Rapid Response and Recovery Fund was launched in mid-March with a seed investment of \$50,000 from the Foundation, which also pledged to match donations dollar for dollar, up to an additional \$100,000. Individual, family and corporate donations amount to \$108,000 so far, putting total available funds at \$258,000 at the time of the first grant-making round.

“We continue to be inspired by our community’s efforts to protect, educate and uplift each other,” said Donna Myers, chair of the OPRFCF board. “Amid challenges unlike any we had previously known, we asked you to join our effort to provide funding that can aid stability throughout the neighborhoods you call home, and you have delivered. We would especially like to thank those who helped us meet our matching goal.”

The following organizations were awarded grants in this first round:

- African American Christian Foundation
- Beyond Hunger
- Housing Forward
- Leyden Family Services
- New Moms
- Oak-Leyden Developmental Services
- Sarah's Inn
- SisterHouse
- Thrive Counseling Center
- Wednesday Journal
- West Cook YMCA

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“This level of interest in the Rapid Response and Recovery Fund reflects the impact COVID-19 has had on Oak Park, River Forest and the surrounding area,” said Tony Martinez, Jr., president and CEO of OPRFCF. “We are proud to support our community nonprofits on the front line during this crisis.”

To donate to the Rapid Response and Recovery Fund, visit <https://www.oprfcf.org/rapid-response-recovery-fund> or call 708-848-1560.

Organizations interested in learning more about the Rapid Response and Recovery grants should contact program director Elizabeth Chadri at echadri@oprfcf.org. The Foundation's priority at this stage is specifically for organizations serving the Oak Park-River Forest area's most vulnerable populations: those who are food-insecure or lack permanent housing, as well as our senior population and healthcare workers. Grants will continue to be distributed on a rolling basis as long as funding remains available.

About the Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation

Founded in 1959, The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation has built lasting, impactful connections among area residents and locally-based service programs. Today as an integral presence in the community, the Foundation focuses on helping its donors identify and achieve their long-term philanthropic goals, and providing grants and leadership support to organizations working to effect positive change in Oak Park, River Forest and surrounding neighborhoods. Learn more about the Foundation's programs and services online at oprfcf.org.