



OAK PARK-RIVER FOREST
Community Foundation



ILLINOIS COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

June 11, 2020

The Oak Park-River Forest Community Foundation's leadership and tireless advocacy for our community led to a grant from the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund, a statewide fund set up by The United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations, in collaboration with the Office of Governor JB Pritzker.

The **Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund** works in tandem with fundraising efforts of community foundations across the state. Thanks to this generous grant, we were able to swiftly deploy additional financial resources to support residents in need of emergency food and basic supplies, interim housing and shelter, primary health care services, utility assistance, direct financial assistance for household expenses, supports for children and other vulnerable populations, and nonprofit safety and operations assistance. We are grateful for these additional monies, which have already been distributed to 13 nonprofit agencies on the greater west side.

Some of the impact includes:



Our grant supports **AgeOptions'** "Caring Together, Living Better" program in Bellwood, Cicero, Maywood and Melrose Park, partnering with 5 local churches-/organizations to meet the needs expressed by local caregivers, including: information and assistance connecting with community resources; help with chores and errands; training for family caregivers to learn communication techniques and goal-setting skills; and stress management and drawing upon their faith for strength for caregiving.



BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development) is one of Chicago's leading gang intervention, violence prevention, and youth development organizations. By offering both individualized as well as community-based programming, BUILD opens doors for youth who may have given up, helping them take charge of their lives, futures, and communities. Grant dollars will help BUILD maintain connection and support for 129 vulnerable youth, including wards of the state.



The Progress Center for Independent Living works to provide people with disabilities the tools to be healthy, safe, and independent in their own homes. This spring, The Progress Center continued ensuring home services are not disrupted, including the critical support of personal assistants; securing new residences so that clients can move into accessible and affordable homes without delay; supporting individuals and families who have lost their jobs or have been forced to live with higher expenses because of COVID-19; and helping people find answers within the changing landscape of public benefits and COVID-19. Grant dollars focused on emergency family assistance for rent and utilities.



Proyecto De Ayuda Para Trabajadores Del Campo Y Jardineros- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project's mission is to improve working conditions and support immigrant workers' rights, through community outreach and education, information and referrals, and partnering with other organizations to fight human labor trafficking and prevent family separations by helping immigrants secure dual citizenship for their children. Grant dollars provided cash transfers to low income clients to supplement wage loss caused by COVID-19. Funding will also support the expansion of services to Cicero, Berwyn, Maywood, Oak Park and River Forest.



The Way Back Inn and Grateful House in Maywood serves adult men and women who are suffering from alcohol, drug, and gambling dependence. The overall goal is to help clients achieve continuous sobriety via a recovery program that focuses on the integration of the body, mind, and spirit. Addiction has seen a marked increase this spring; alcohol sales are up 50% in Oak Park. Grant dollars support the program's migration to tele-services and additional hours for staff, to meet the increased need for services as addiction grows due to our current situation.



Y. E. M. B. A., Inc.
Educating our youth mentally,
physically and spiritually.

YEMBA's mission is to educate youth mentally, physically and spiritually with a life-long learning and service experience through group mentorship, which will equip them with knowledge and tools for leadership development and success in life. Grant dollars will maintain YEMBA's connection and support for vulnerable youth in Oak Park and River Forest, and allow programming to continue through online mentoring.