COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund

General Operating Support Working Group

The General Operating Support Working Group makes strategic investments in the overall ability of our region’s nonprofit sector to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of local residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our purpose is to ensure that local organizations that do not fall within our Housing and Homelessness, Education and Youth, Workforce and Small Business, and Public Health work group areas are well resourced with flexible general operating support during this crisis to help them respond nimbly to the evolving needs of our communities.

Our conversations with nonprofit partners have identified the most critical needs from many organizations that provide a range of services across our region. Right now, they are in desperate need of more immediate and flexible support to continue their work as they face greater uncertainty and increase in demand.

Given our current knowledge of needs in the sector, the General Operating Support Working Group’s initial funding priorities will include filling critical gaps for nonprofits facing:

- **Loss of revenue due to event cancellations**: Many local nonprofits were forced to postpone or cancel fundraising events, adding immense budget pressure to local groups already struggling.
- **Lack of volunteers to assist with providing services**: Our nonprofit partners are facing a severe shortage of volunteer support due to the unique dynamics of social distancing and the potential for volunteer exposure to the virus. This has had a drastic impact on the capacity of many direct service providers.
- **Lack of access to necessary supplies**: Many nonprofits require cleaning supplies and other supplies in order to continue providing services to the community.
- **Lack of equipment to comply with public health measures designed to slow the spread of COVID-19**: Many organizations require immediate upgrades to their technology systems, infrastructure, and capacity to be able to continue delivering or coordinating services.

Our immediate goal is to provide rapid support for critical service organizations during this initial phase of the pandemic and social distancing. As the situation unfolds, we expect the working group’s priorities to evolve and shift to meet emerging needs. In addition to our work outlined above, we will be following any federal, county, and local government responses to COVID-19 to coordinate and align our efforts. And we plan to work with our advocacy partners to help ensure that what we are learning about the needs of our neighbors and communities are included in the response.