COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund
Education and Youth Working Group

The Education and Youth Working Group is focused on the needs of young people throughout this crisis, as school closures forced students across the region to stay home and transition to distance learning. School closures created an unprecedented situation for parents/guardians, teachers, and students, while exacerbating already deep divides in educational equity. Many families count on schools for basic needs and to provide other services for children (food, technology, healthcare, safe social-emotional development). Society has quickly moved into a “summer-like” situation where opportunity gaps will only worsen.

The Education and Youth Working Group will strategically invest in the following areas to reach and support children and families through this unique crisis:

- Parent supports to help with stress management, virtual tutoring, tele-case management, social emotional supports and general family supports (we are especially interested in organizations supporting undocumented immigrants). These supports are a key strategy to reduce risk factors related to child abuse and neglect.
- Providing services to opportunity youth (ages 16+) who are disconnected from school/work, with an intentional focus on youth who have had interactions with Juvenile Justice and/or Child Welfare systems;
- Providing services to youth at-risk of becoming disconnected from school/work, specifically targeting students in 8th and 9th grades who are at higher risk of dropping out of high school;
- Meeting the unique needs of students distinguished by disabilities, low-income, IEPs, behavioral challenges, English Language Learners, foster care and/or Child Protective Services); and
- Advocacy to support childcare systems improvements now and into the future. Advocacy efforts funded must begin in the next 12 weeks, and opportunities that will have a quick impact on local communities will receive priority for funding.

As the situation unfolds, and the community begins to re-open, we expect the working group’s priorities to evolve and shift to meet emerging needs. In addition, we are coordinating with federal, county, and local government responses to COVID-19 to complement and align our efforts.