COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund
Food Security, Domestic Violence, and Legal Services Working Group

The COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund 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. The Food Security, Domestic Violence, and Legal Services Working Group’s purpose will be to ensure that critical needs which do not fall within our other priority areas have access to funding opportunities during this crisis, including our emerging focus on regional food security, support for victims of domestic violence, and support for groups providing critical legal services during the pandemic.

Our conversations with nonprofit partners have identified the most critical needs from many organizations that provide a range of services across our region. Given our current knowledge of needs in the sector, our funding priorities include:

Funding Priority: Food Security
- Bolstering our region’s Food Security, including support for organizations that center their mission on food access and security:
  - Emergency Food Access targeting smaller communities or areas of our region that are less well connected to food system infrastructure.
  - Meal Prep and Delivery for front-line providers and low-income vulnerable communities.
  - Backbone intermediary support among food providers to ensure coordination and equitable distribution.
  - Organizations must have a history of addressing food access issues in their communities for at least two years.
- Advocacy efforts designed to strengthen the local food system and support increased food security for local residents. 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.

Funding Priority: Domestic Violence
- Addressing the increase in violence and abuse, including domestic violence, rape, and intimate partner abuse, especially in Suburban Maryland or for particularly vulnerable communities.
- Advocacy efforts designed to address the uptick in domestic and other forms of violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.

Funding Priority: Legal Services
- Supporting the needs of court-involved individuals during the pandemic, including those who are currently incarcerated, returning citizens, or about to be released.
- Advocacy efforts designed to support the needs of court-involved persons, including those who are currently incarcerated, during the COVID-19 pandemic. 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.