$18 Million in COVID-19 Relief Awards Announced for United Ways in Indiana

Indianapolis – Indiana United Ways (IUW) has made grants totaling $18 million to 16 United Ways across Indiana to help them address the local economic, health and human service needs that have arisen because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IUW, the state professional association for United Ways in Indiana, made the grants through the United Way COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative, which was created with support from a $30 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

The purpose of the United Way COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative is to disburse funds expeditiously into local communities to help human services agencies on the frontlines provide food, emergency childcare and other critical services. The amounts of the grants are based on the populations of the counties served.

These first grants were made to United Ways collectively serving nearly three million Hoosiers. The grants were awarded in communities that are facing urgent relief needs and have well-developed partnerships to ensure that funds are distributed where they are needed most. Through the initiative, IUW is committed to reaching all parts of Indiana and is preparing to make additional grants. IUW, through the United Way network, is working with all counties in the state to achieve this goal.

Applications were reviewed by a highly engaged standing IUW Committee that manages IUW’s ongoing natural disaster response fund.

First round awardees include:

- Lake Area United Way ($3,000,000): serving Lake and Newton counties
- Metro United Way ($1,400,000): serving Clark, Harrison, and Floyd counties in Indiana only
- United Way of Allen County ($2,250,000)
- United Way of Bartholomew County ($500,000): also serving part of Brown County
- United Way of Elkhart & LaGrange Counties ($1,500,000)
- United Way of Greater Lafayette and Tippecanoe County ($1,300,000): also serving Benton and Carroll counties
- United Way of Greater LaPorte County ($625,000)
- United Way serving Howard & Tipton Counties ($500,000)
- United Way of Miami County ($225,000)
- United Way of Monroe County ($1,200,000): also serving Greene and Owen counties
- United Way of Putnam County ($225,000)
- United Way of St. Joseph County ($1,600,000)
- United Way of Southwestern Indiana ($1,950,000): serving Spencer, Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, and Warrick counties
• United Way of the Wabash Valley ($1,100,000): serving Clay, Parke, Vermillion, Vigo, and Sullivan counties
• United Way of the Whitewater Valley ($425,000): serving Union and Wayne counties
• United Way of Whitley County ($200,000)

“In response to this pandemic, United Ways in Indiana are doing what we are known for: focusing on what is most needed and executing on what works locally, getting leaders to work together, and finding remedies to problems. Thanks to generous support from Lilly Endowment, United Ways and their partners in Indiana will be even better positioned to help their communities deal with the immediate impacts of COVID-19,” said Ron Turpin of Fort Wayne, Board Chair for IUW and Board Member Emeritus for United Way of Allen County.

United Ways will leverage local partnerships to assess needs and make investments in organizations that are working to meet community needs. United Way grantees may serve multiple counties with their award and will likely release funds locally in rounds based on changing needs. United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI), a member of IUW, announced its own COVID-19 Community Economic Relief Fund on March 13, which was launched with a $15 million grant from Lilly Endowment. UWCI released its first round of funding decisions on March 24 and a second round on April 7. Lilly Endowment announced an additional grant of $3.5 million in early April to provide COVID-19-related support for five counties served by UWCI in addition to Marion County.

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Lilly Endowment Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly Sr. and sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community, development, education and religion and maintains a special commitment to its hometown, Indianapolis, and their home state, Indiana.

Indiana United Ways is the state association for United Ways in Indiana that supports thriving United Ways through capacity building, shared services, and partnering. For more information, contact Maureen Noe, President & CEO at Maureen.noe@iuw.org.