The Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund was established by Fairfield County’s Community Foundation on March 18, 2020 with the support of generous seed funding from a cross-section of individuals, private foundations, corporations, and others.

The new Fund is rapidly deploying resources to frontline community organizations that meet the basic needs of local residents in Fairfield County. The Fund’s purpose is to help alleviate the social and economic consequences of this global pandemic and to prevent the widening of disparities in education, employment, housing, and health. The Fund’s resources are being directed to organizations serving high need, vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals and residents without health insurance and/or access to sick days; immigrants; persons with disabilities; and communities of color, among others.

As of June 30, 2020, we have distributed $1,908,500 in emergency grant funding from the Fund to 154 organizations serving Fairfield County residents. An estimated 260,233 of our county’s most vulnerable residents have been reached through this funding. A total of $2.425 million has been raised by generous donors to date for the Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund.

During the same period, Donor Advised Funds managed by Fairfield County’s Community Foundation have deployed additional grant funding totaling nearly $3 million in response to the crisis.

*The Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund* is designed to be flexible in its focus, nimble in its action, and to complement other resources and responses at the national, state, and local levels.
Fairfield County’s Community Foundation will continue to administer responsive grants from the Fund through its Community Impact Team, which will identify potential grant recipients and accept open inquiries for funding. Aligned organizations may apply for general operating, program or capacity-building support. Given the dynamic nature of this moment, grant funding will be considered and released as soon as possible. On April 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 16\textsuperscript{th}, May 7\textsuperscript{th}, and June 18\textsuperscript{th}, funding Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 were released, respectively.

While we continue to raise funds, we have temporarily paused the grant application process for our COVID-19 Resiliency Fund. During the month of May, the Community Foundation shifted its focus to fulfilling our spring competitive grantmaking cycle.

Based on conversations with many of our nonprofit partners, this incremental funding cycle — which was planned prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 — will allow them to adapt their upcoming programming and ongoing services as necessary. We distributed more than $700,000 in incremental funding through our spring grantmaking cycle.

As our COVID-19 response continues to evolve from emergency, rapid-response funding to long-term recovery and planning, we expect to reopen applications to \textit{The Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund} in the coming weeks. Subsequent grants will be awarded on a rolling basis, subject to funding availability.

For general inquiries about funding, please contact your Program Officer or send an email to \texttt{COVID19@FCCFoundation.org}.

Consideration for grants from \textit{The Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund} is limited to 501c3 nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive tax-deductible contributions, such as schools, faith-based organizations serving community needs, and other public entities based in or primarily serving Fairfield County communities and residents. Consideration will also be given to 501c4 social welfare organizations.

\textbf{CONTACT US:}

- For general inquiries about funding, please contact your Program Officer or send an email to \texttt{COVID19@FCCFoundation.org}.
- For interested donors and partners, please contact Mike Rosen, Chief Revenue & Business Development Officer, at \texttt{mrosen@FCCFoundation.org} or Karen Brown, Vice President, Development & Philanthropic Services, at \texttt{kbrown@FCCFoundation.org}.
- For media inquiries and interview requests, please contact Beth DeMarte, Sr. Director, Marketing & Communications, at \texttt{bdemarte@FCCFoundation.org}.
- To make a donation online visit \texttt{FCCFoundation.org/COVID19ResiliencyFundDonate}.
• Donations can also be made via check payable to “Fairfield County’s Community Foundation” with “COVID-19 Resiliency Fund” written in the Memo line. Mail checks to Fairfield County’s Community Foundation, 40 Richards Ave., 4th Floor, Norwalk, CT 06854.

• For instructions on donating securities and other assets or to make a wire transfer, email finance@FCCFoundation.org.

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FOUNDING FUND PARTNERS:

Founding Fund Partners have agreed to contribute a minimum of $25,000 to The Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund.

Founding Fund Partners include: Anne S. Leonhardt Fund; Anonymous Fundholders and Donors; Bank of America; Bridgewater Associates; Buckeye Fund; CNG, SCG, UI – Part of the AVANGRID Family; Dan Levinson; Diane and Andreas Halvorsen; Don Kendall; Eversource; Fairfield County’s Community Foundation; Fairfield County’s Community Foundation Board of Directors; Henkel North America; Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation; Hope Fund; Impact Fairfield County/Generation Impact; John Mayer’s Back to You Fund; Judy and Tony Evnin; The Koskoff Fund; NBC Sports Group; O’Herron Family Foundation; People’s United Community Foundation; Perrin Fund for Youth Voice; Piper Fund; Pitney Bowes; Ritter Family Foundation; Social Venture Partners Connecticut; Target Corporation; Tudor Foundation; Wells Fargo; and The Wescustogo Foundation.

We will add to this list as new contributions are made to the Fund. We are incredibly grateful for the support!

CHALLENGE GRANTS:

We’re thrilled to share that our $100,000 challenge grant and $500,000 challenge grants, each provided by anonymous FCCF fundholders, were met!

Any donation up to $10,000 to the Fund were matched, dollar-for-dollar, for each of the two challenge grants.

To those who have already contributed, THANK YOU! Every donation of any size matters, so please continue to give from your heart and help us spread the word to your friends, family and social networks. Donate at FCCFoundation.org/COVID19ResiliencyFund.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I’m an individual or a member of a family who’s been affected by COVID-19. Can this Fund help me?

While the Fund is not able to provide grants directly to individuals or families, we will be funding community-based organizations that have experience and history of providing people and families with services and support. The Fund’s resources will be directed to organizations serving high-need, vulnerable populations, including low-income individuals and residents without health insurance and/or access to sick days; immigrants; persons with disabilities; and communities of color, among others.

As we begin to award grants, we will post them on our website. We also plan to post other resources for those in need, so check back on our site.

We encourage all residents to closely monitor updates and review valuable health and safety resources from the State of Connecticut and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as their local health departments. The State of Connecticut has partnered with United Way of Connecticut to launch an information hotline for questions from the public regarding issues related to the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). People who have questions can call 2-1-1 or text “CTCOVID” to 898211.

My organization is interested in resources from this Fund. Can we be considered?

We understand the COVID-19 crisis is impacting local nonprofits in many ways, including increased demand for services, lost revenue due to closures and program and event cancelations, as well as other challenges.

Fairfield County’s Community Foundation will administer responsive grants from the Fund through its Community Impact Team, which will identify potential grant recipients and accept open inquiries for funding. Aligned organizations may apply for general operating, program or capacity-building support. Given the dynamic nature of this moment, grant funding will be considered and released as soon as possible. On April 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 16\textsuperscript{th}, May 7\textsuperscript{th}, and June 18\textsuperscript{th}, funding Rounds 1, 2, 3 and 4 were released, respectively.

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I want to donate. Can I restrict my funding to a prioritized grantee?
To ensure we move critical resources as efficiently as possible and respond to needs of nonprofit organizations serving the most impacted and vulnerable communities and residents, we are not considering restricted donations at this time. Information on how to make donations can be provided in the Contact Us section of this page.

Should I give to this Fund instead of making other donations?
This Fund was not created to be the only vehicle resourcing critical community needs during this outbreak. If this Fund’s priorities align with your interests, we hope you will consider making a donation.

In addition to making a gift to this Fund, we encourage you to support local nonprofit organizations that work with the people and families who are most vulnerable in our community. Community health centers, homeless shelters, pre-school and afterschool programs, food pantries and others, which are already dealing with reductions in state and federal funding, will be further stressed. In times like this, philanthropy can shine. If you’re a fundholder or donor interested in specific recommendations, please contact your relationship manager or email Karen Brown, VP of Development & Philanthropic Services at kbrown@fccfoundation.org.
**What will NOT be included in the first phase of funding?**
The Fund’s resources will initially be directed to 501c3 and/or 501c4 organizations serving high-need, vulnerable populations in Fairfield County, including low-income individuals and residents without health insurance and/or access to sick days; immigrants; persons with disabilities; and communities of color, among others.

We anticipate multiple phases of funding to address both the acute needs now and the longer-term impacts of the outbreak and recovery. In the first phase, we are prioritizing the deployment of resources to trusted, frontline community organizations to help them continue to meet the basic needs of local residents in Fairfield County. The Fund’s primary purpose is to help alleviate the social and economic consequences of this global pandemic and to prevent the widening of disparities in education, employment, housing, and health.

In the initial phase of funding, we are not able to prioritize organizations outside the scope of the Fund’s primary purpose that have lost revenue or are likely to lose future revenue due to canceled events or programs. We recognize these challenges, and as the crisis and long-term impacts unfold, we will continue to assess and evolve our funding strategies.

**Is there a geographic area of focus for the Fund?**
The Fund will prioritize community-based organizations serving residents of Fairfield County. Consideration for grants from *The Fairfield County COVID-19 Resiliency Fund* is limited to 501c3 nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive tax-deductible contributions, such as schools, faith-based organizations serving community needs, and other public entities based in or primarily serving Fairfield County communities and residents. Consideration will also be given to 501c4 social welfare organizations based in or primarily serving the same geographic region.

**When will you share who you fund?**
Given the dynamic nature of this moment, grant funding will be considered and released on a rolling basis. A full list of grantees, including brief descriptions of how these funds are being used can be found at [https://fccfoundation.org/resiliency-fund-nonprofits-receiving-funds/](https://fccfoundation.org/resiliency-fund-nonprofits-receiving-funds/).

**Is there a fee to contribute?**
Due to the generosity of select donors, the Community Foundation will not charge an administrative fee for participating in the Fund. 100% of donations will support the community, excluding credit card processing fees. Donors contributing online will be given the option of adding 3% per transaction to cover credit card processing fees charged to the Community Foundation by our payment processor.

Updated 06/30/20
**How will the Fund shift gears if needed?**

The near-term goal of the Fund is to provide a rapid response that delivers financial resources to address immediate needs. Fundraising and the distribution of resources will continue through the outbreak and into the recovery phase, which has an unknown timeline. As we are dealing with unprecedented and unpredictable short- and long-term implications of COVID-19 on our communities and neighborhoods, we will frequently review the Fund’s criteria for grantmaking to ensure we are responsive to the changing needs of our communities based on the dynamic nature of this crisis.

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