

Henderson County COVID-19 Response Fund

ABOUT THE FUND

The Henderson County COVID-19 Response Fund has been established to provide flexible resources to 501(c)(3) organizations in our region working with communities who are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the economic consequences of this event. Operating grants will help fund front line human services organizations that have deep roots in the community and strong experience working with vulnerable populations. The first phase of rapid-response grants will help meet basic needs and help increase resiliency in affected communities. The Fund expects to move an initial round of grants within the next few weeks.

A Fund Distribution committee of representatives from United Way of Henderson County, Community Foundation of Henderson County, local government and community institutions working directly with impacted populations will proactively identify emerging community needs, strategies to meet those needs, and potential grant recipients. The committee will review applications and determine final awards. Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak and recovery phases of the crisis, making it possible to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs in subsequent funding phases.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm an individual who's been affected by COVID-19. Can this Fund help me?

We understand many individuals and families have been affected by this event already and more will continue to be affected. The purpose of this fund is to move resources to community-based organizations that are directly supporting local residents and families who are most affected by emerging health, economic, and social impacts.

While the Fund is not able to provide grants to individuals, it is funding community-based organizations that have experience and history of providing people and families with services and support. Awards granted from the Fund will be made available to the public via United Way's and the Foundation's websites. For immediate access to individual and family health and human services, please contact United Way's 211 helpline by dialing 2-1-1 from your phone or visiting nc211.org.

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

We understand the coronavirus is impacting nonprofits in many ways, including increased demand for their services, lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, as well as other challenges. We will be convening an advisory committee to ensure that the grants awarded meet the greatest needs in communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In order to

move resources quickly, we have a simple application that can be submitted online. Applications will be reviewed by the advisory committee on an ongoing, rolling basis.

I want to donate. Can I designate to a specific organization or service?

To ensure we move resources as efficiently as possible and respond to the needs of communities most impacted, we are not considering designations for this Fund. The Henderson County COVID-19 Response Fund was created to provide a coordinated response to our county's immediate needs. 100% of all individual and corporate donations to the Fund will go directly to meet the needs of those impacted by COVID-19. No administrative costs will be assessed. Please call United Way of Henderson County or Community Foundation of Henderson County if you'd like to make a designated donation.

Should I give to this Fund instead of making other donations?

This Fund was not created to be the only vehicle for getting needed resources into the community, but to help focus a regional response. Please continue to give to United Way, the Community Foundation, organizations you regularly support, and those that need your help at this crucial time. Now is the time to double down for our community.

What will be prioritized in the first phase of funding?

We anticipate multiple phases of funding to address both the acute needs from the outbreak and the longer-term impacts of recovery. In this first phase, we are prioritizing community-based organizations that are serving communities and individuals who are immediately and disproportionately suffering from this crisis. We recognize there will be challenges from losses of revenue due to canceled events and programs, and loss of service fees, and as the crisis and long-term impacts continue to unfold, we will continue to work with our partners to assess and evolve our funding strategies.

Based upon the charitable structure of the COVID-19 Response Fund, our grants are limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution. We are not able to fund individuals or businesses directly, labor unions, or other 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations.

Is there a geographic area of focus for the Fund?

The COVID-19 Response Fund will be available to community-based organizations serving Henderson County. We are doing this with a recognition that some local nonprofits also serve workers and residents in our neighboring counties.

When will you share who you fund?

We anticipate making a first round of investments in the coming weeks and will publish the list of selected grantees here and on [UWHC's website](#), along with short descriptions of the services and support they are providing. We hope that this will help the community navigate available resources.