COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

Created in response to pandemic in March 2020

Focus on supporting basic needs: food, shelter, transportation, financial assistance

Over $215,000 raised so far from individuals, businesses, and organizations

Will continue to accept and distribute funds as long as there is a need
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

- Five rounds of grants beginning in April
- WCF invited specific organizations to apply based on funding priorities
- Streamlined grants process to get needed grants out more quickly
- Will offer one additional grant round this year in December
Increase in clients served

Increased need for coordination between nonprofits

Change in types of services needed

Loss of other fundraising income and volunteer support

TOTAL GRANTS: $137,100

Funds remaining: $89,388
CERF Grants

Total Distributed: $137,100*

*This includes $126,508 from CERF + $10,592 from two other WCF funds
GRANT IMPACT - FOOD

“Before COVID, we saw approximately 5 households a weekday for food. Now we are having days of serving 170+ households in a single day.”

- Williamsburg House of Mercy
GRANT IMPACT – HOUSING & FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

• For people in crisis, homeless or transitioning out of homelessness – shelter/motel rooms
  • 3e Restoration
  • Avalon Center
  • Community of Faith Mission

• For people who have lost income – helps with rent, utilities, gas cards, home repair
  • Williamsburg House of Mercy
  • Salvation Army
  • Grove Christian Outreach Center
  • Housing Partnerships
  • Peninsula Agency on Aging
"I can’t thank Meals on Wheels enough for delivering meals to my parents during the pandemic. I live out of town and have been unable to visit them weekly to prepare meals or do grocery shopping. It’s been a huge relief to me to know they are receiving food, and someone is checking on them daily."
WHERE ARE WE NOW?

HOUSING
United Way is distributing rent/mortgage relief to residents (CARES Act), but residents will continue to need help in the winter/spring with accumulated debt from utilities.

CHILDCARE
There is funding available to help families pay for school-aged childcare, but many daycare centers do not have openings due to increased child-teacher ratios and lack of employees willing to work in high-risk/low-pay environment.

MENTAL HEALTH
WCF Distribution plans to target next round of grants to address mental health as people deal with isolation, increased stress, anxiety during the pandemic.
OTHER GRANT CHANGES DUE TO COVID

- Offered grants for operating support during our fall grant round.
- Allowed organizations to postpone grant reports.
- Allowed organizations to alter the use of funds due to Covid.
- Put a portion of the non-Gala proceeds into grantmaking for 2021.
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND