



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**United Way of Champaign County and Community Foundation of East Central Illinois launch
COVID-19 Relief Fund**

Fund will support direct service providers on the front lines of the pandemic

The United Way of Champaign County and Community Foundation Boards of Directors have authorized the establishment of the *Champaign County COVID-19 Relief Fund*. The Boards have each seeded the fund with up to \$50,000, creating up to \$100,000 to respond to the needs in our area. The fund will distribute resources to United Way's existing network of partners and the partners supported by the Community Foundation.

"United Way knows many people in our community are one missed paycheck away from financial crisis," remarked Sue Grey, United Way of Champaign County President & CEO. "Our network of partners are working to provide needed assistance to families. This fund will support their efforts." United Way of Champaign County will not charge any processing fees on gifts to this Fund.

"We don't know what the needs are yet but we are ready to help our area recover in any way we can," said Joan Dixon, Community Foundation President & CEO.

The two local funders understand many individuals and families have been affected by the outbreak already and more will continue to be affected. The Fund will grant resources to established 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, community-based organizations that have experience and history of providing people and families with services and support will be eligible.

Potential grant recipients will be identified from community advisors, the Boards of Directors and local units of government. In order to move resources quickly and not further burden organizations on the frontlines of the pandemic, there will be no formal application process at this time.

To ensure resources move as efficiently as possible and respond to needs of communities most impacted, the Fund is not considering restricted donations at this time. The COVID-19 Response Fund was created in hopes of providing a way to coordinate as many resources as possible.

United Way and Community Foundation would like to applaud Ameren Illinois, Comcast, C-U MTD, the Champaign County Sheriff, and all who are working to mitigate the financial hardships facing families at this time.

To donate, visit www.uwayhelps.org/COVID19 or www.cfeci.org

Checks can be mailed to:

United Way of Champaign County
5 Dunlap Court
Savoy, IL 61874

Community Foundation of East Central Illinois
307 W University Ave
Champaign, IL 61820

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