



Update on Wave Two of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

May 20, 2020

To our donors,

We hope this letter finds you and your families well.

This week the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund Advisory Committee approved the second wave of grant funding of \$2.67mm. This wave of funding supported 103 grant awards through eight community foundation partners. The total dollars awarded to date is \$5.8 million to 233 nonprofit organizations. We are so thankful to our community foundation partners who have increased their capacity to provide coverage to additional cities and towns new to their grantmaking network. In this wave of funding, in addition to continuing support in cities and towns with critical need across the Commonwealth, the community foundations extended their reach and support for the first time to several cities and towns including Brockton, Taunton, Attleboro, Bridgewater, Medford, Weymouth and Randolph, ensuring that this statewide fund reaches those in need throughout the Commonwealth.

Thanks to thousands of generous donors, to date the Fund has raised \$28.4mm. On the weekend of May 15th and 16th, NBC Boston televised a "Movement to Give" which generated over \$74k to support the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund. NBC produced news stories and pre-recorded short snippets featuring our grantees that ran throughout the two days across NBC10, NECN, NBC Sports, and Telemundo. [Here is an example of one of the features.](#)

As the weeks pass, more of our neighbors will need our help with critical needs like access to food, assistance with housing and childcare. Support organizations continue to seek PPE and other necessities to enable their essential workforce to continue to do their jobs.

We have been heartened by the level of collaboration and commitment among the robust network of large and small nonprofits in our communities. Although we would like to highlight every grantee in this and our ensuing fund update letters, we will showcase the work of 2-3 community foundations and their nonprofit partners to provide you an example of how your donation has changed the lives of your community and enabled these non-profits to fulfill urgent local needs.

Impact Spotlight: Wave 2

[Essex County Community Foundation \(ECCF\)](#)

The Essex County Community Foundation serves the 790,000 people living in the 34 towns and cities of Essex County. Its funding footprint includes the high-need Gateway cities of Lynn, Lawrence, Haverhill, Peabody, Methuen, and Salem.

"The need in Essex County is great, and this funding is enabling us to broaden the impact we are making in our cities and towns to help those most vulnerable to the effects of the current health crisis." - Beth Francis, President and CEO of Essex County Community Foundation



With funds from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund to date, ECCF is supporting 40 nonprofit organizations, including:

Community Action Council (CAP) network: One area of focus of ECCF is deploying resources to immigrant families in desperate need of food, rental assistance and other basic necessities. ECCF is working through a network of CAP (Community Action Programs) and backbone charitable organizations to distribute financial relief to the most economically disadvantaged, especially immigrant populations, in Essex County.

Salem Pantry: In addition to maintaining their mobile fresh produce markets for Salem residents, to address increased food insecurity, the Salem Pantry is also distributing food through schools reaching 300 families per week, as well as sourcing food for 1,300 seniors per week through a partnership with the non-profit, Root, which cooks and distributes the meals for those in need.

Learn more about the work of ECCF [here](#).

Community Foundation of North Central MA (CFNCM)

The Community Foundation of North Central MA encompasses 33 communities along the New Hampshire border in Central Massachusetts, stretching from Franklin County, across northern Worcester County and into Middlesex County. This includes the high-need cities of Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner, as well as more rural communities.

“These additional dollars are critical to our ability to support local nonprofits serving needy families through this protracted crisis. The Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund will significantly deepen our reach to families in North Central Massachusetts.” – Steve Adams, President of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

CFNCM is supporting 22 nonprofit organizations with funds from the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, including:

Dr. Franklin Perkins School: CFNCM’s work to provide resources to those with disabilities is critical. The Perkins School, in Lancaster, MA provides resources and supports to youth and adults facing educational, developmental, or mental health challenges.

Friends of Hubbardston Senior Center: Seniors isolated by COVID-19 are receiving food and essentials from the Friends of Hubbardston Senior Center, which relies heavily on a volunteer workforce.

Learn more about the work of CFNCM [here](#).

Cape Cod Foundation (CCF)

The Cape Cod Foundation’s catchment area includes the 15 towns of Barnstable County. With nearly 31% of the County’s population over the age of 65 (compared to 17% across MA) and a



high dependence on seasonal income, Cape Cod has seen new challenges emerge for children, families, and seniors during the COVID-19 crisis.

“Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been in constant contact with leaders across the nonprofit sector to determine where the needs and challenges are the greatest. This grant will help bring relief to the most vulnerable people in our community.”- Kristin O’Malley, President and CEO of The Cape Cod Foundation

With funds from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund to date, CCF is supporting 12 nonprofit organizations throughout the Cape, including:

Cape Kids: Cape Kids typically provides food insecure children with food on weekends during the school year. With funds from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund, Cape Kids is continuing food and delivery bags during the week while school is not in session due to the pandemic.

Lower Cape Outreach Council: This nonprofit organization is providing emergency assistance including food, clothing and financial support to residents of the eight towns that constitute Lower Cape Cod.

Learn more about the work of CCF [here](#).

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To view a current list of nonprofit organizations supported by the grantees of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund click [here](#).

Thank you again for your generous support. It is making a difference to so many in our state.

With great regard,

Lauren Baker, First Lady of Massachusetts, Advisory Committee

Joanna Jacobson, One8 Foundation Trustee & President, Advisory Committee

Jonathan Raymond, Executive Director, MA COVID-19 Relief Fund