



Final Update of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

November 6, 2020

To our donors,

We hope this finds you and your families safe and well.

We are writing this last letter to report on the final MA COVID-19 Relief Fund Advisory Committee meeting which was conducted last week. The purpose of this final meeting was to review the last set of grant outcome reporting for Wave 7 and to determine where the Fund should direct the remaining dollars as a final grant distribution. The Fund had granted \$31,257,264 in Waves 1-7, and after raising \$32,204,374 had \$947,110 remaining to distribute to Massachusetts charities. Over the past few months grants were made to support the work of 560 distinct nonprofits providing services to the vulnerable throughout the state.

The first order of business at this last Advisory Council meeting was to review grant reporting outcomes for Wave 7 distributions. We are very pleased to report that all dollars distributed were allocated and used to serve vulnerable populations across the state. Food insecurity, housing insecurity, services to vulnerable populations including essential workers and immigrant support were the biggest distinct issue areas in terms of dollars granted over the seven waves of grantmaking.

A second order of business was for the Committee to determine where to grant the remaining +\$900,000 of the Fund. The unanimous decision was to grant these dollars to the four food banks that serve the entire state to ensure food access is secure over the coming months as the pandemic continues.

We would like to take this time to thank the very devoted members of our Advisory Committee. Each person agreed to serve immediately upon being asked, showed up to each weekly meeting fully prepared (not a small task since the weekly grant review and grant reporting documents were extremely lengthy), engaged in thoughtful discussions and provided their unique perspectives given the committee was a diverse group representing different regions across the state. Our Advisory Committee deserves and has the deep appreciation of the Fund leadership, donors and grant recipients. Without their thoughtful counsel we would not have been as effective and efficient in our grantmaking. Their guidance and warm, collaborative conduct made the entire effort effective and rewarding. It has been a blessing to work alongside these professionals. Our committee members were:

First Lady Lauren Baker | Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Susanne Beaton | Director of Special Initiatives, Paul & Phyllis Fireman Charitable Foundation

Joanna Jacobson | President & Trustee, One8 Foundation



Susan Coghlin Mailman | Owner, Executive Chair & Treasurer, Coghlin Electrical Contractors, Inc, Coughlin Network Services, Inc

Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria | Past President, Bridgewater State University

James Morton | President and CEO YMCA of Greater Boston

Alexandra Nova | Deputy Director, Lawrence Partnership

Dr. Christina Royal | President, Holyoke Community College

Our Committee was invaluable supported by Elissa Flynn-Poppey, Partner at Mintz who acted as pro bono Legal Counsel to the Fund. We could not have managed this fund without her advice, problem solving expertise and sound judgment.

It is with this last letter that we also extend our deep appreciation to you, the donors of the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund. Your generosity was matched only by your sense of urgency – it took us only weeks to raise the majority of the \$32mm that has supported so many individuals across our state. It should not go without highlighting that this was the largest and most impactful philanthropic statewide effort across our state and perhaps any state in the U.S. We have heard of no other statewide philanthropic effort during the pandemic. This ended, perhaps forever we hope, the dramatic concentration of philanthropy in Boston alone, extending support to so many deserving families and individuals throughout Massachusetts. Your dollars supported all the Commonwealth's Counties from the Cape to Bristol, Plymouth, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Middlesex, Worcester, Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden and Berkshire Counties. At a time where community is doubly important, philanthropic dollars have been equitably distributed throughout our state. This is imperative and feels good!

Please consider supporting the community foundations who are continuing to provide much needed relief to nonprofit organizations serving our neighbors across the state. [Learn more here.](#)

Thank you for your support.

With gratitude,

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