



Hamilton County Crisis Response Fund

On March 6, Governor Eric Holcomb declared a public health emergency for the state of Indiana in response to the COVID-19 epidemic. On March 11, the World Health Organization officially declared the spread of COVID-19 as a global pandemic, threatening public health across the globe and right here in Central Indiana. While several positive cases of coronavirus have been confirmed to-date, we anticipate significant disruptions to daily life and a potentially life-threatening consequences for our most vulnerable residents.

Hamilton County Community Foundation (HCCF) strongly encourages our community partners and employers to do their part in [‘flattening the coronavirus curve’](#), and closely monitor Center for Disease Control [recommendations related to COVID-19](#) on a regular basis to ensure that the integrity of our health care systems remain intact and our residents remain as healthy as possible.

With this said, Hamilton County Community Foundation, along with the generous support of the community, has established the **Hamilton County Crisis Response Fund**, a flexible fund to provide resources to nonprofit organizations that are responding to the spread of COVID-19 and experiencing financial challenges in doing so. Operating grants will provide support to community-based organizations that work with the elderly or infirm, youth, and economically vulnerable populations.

This fund and administration are subject to change based on conditions in our region. However, it is likely grants will range in size from \$1,000-\$20,000 and may provide support for such uses as:

- Hunger relief and/or academic support for children effected by school closures
- Senior services
- Access to prompt and adequate medical care for uninsured or underinsured
- Temporary mortgage, rent or utility assistance for people suffering from COVID-19 related closures or employment terminations
- Other COVID-19-related issues and causes.

In an effort to make this process swift and simple, HCCF will accept brief applications that will be made available by late March. It is anticipated applications will be accepted on a rolling basis with funds being distributed through the rest of 2020. The first grants will be made from this fund in April and will continue through the year.

Hamilton County Community Foundation is collaborating in this endeavor alongside colleagues at Central Indiana Community Foundation and The Indianapolis Foundation, who have also created the Neighbor Relief Fund for Marion County. Additionally, both HCCF and The Indianapolis Foundation will adapt responsive grant rounds for the remainder of 2020 to adjust to rapidly changing community needs. More on this will be shared in the coming weeks and months. We are also actively counseling donor-advised fund holders on how to best support the not-for-profit sector during the pandemic.

We invite you to consider partnering with Hamilton County Community Foundation to extend help to our neighbors most in need during this time. If you are a donor or external partner interested in supporting Hamilton County response efforts, please contact Director of Development, Brittany Rayburn, at brittanyr@cicf.org.