

# COVID-19 Community Response Fund for Eastern Washington

## PURPOSE OF THE FUND

The COVID-19 Community Response Fund will rapidly deploy resources to community-based organizations (CBOs) at the frontlines of the coronavirus outbreak in Eastern Washington. The fund is intended to complement the work of public health officials, medical providers, businesses and governments to expand local capacity to address all aspects of the outbreak as effectively as possible.

The fund supports these Eastern Washington counties: Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Lincoln, Adams, Spokane, Whitman, Columbia, Garfield and Asotin.

## COMPOSITION OF ADVISORY GROUP

Funding recommendations will come from the COVID-19 Community Response Advisory Group. This group will include representation from various community, business, and government and philanthropic sectors in Eastern Washington. Participants will reflect the diversity of our region to include rural communities, tribal communities and communities of color. You can see the list of Advisory Group members [here](#) (make this a link to completed roster)

## FUNDING PRIORITIES

The fund will begin by addressing the urgent health, basic human services and economic needs of disproportionately impacted communities and individuals.

Initially, grant funding will support organizations that provide community safety nets (e.g. food pantries, homelessness and housing assistance, etc.) and have strong experience working with the immediate needs of populations made vulnerable by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, the Community Response Fund will support organizations that serve:

- Residents without health insurance and/or access to paid time off work
- People with limited English language proficiency
- Healthcare, hospitality, service workers, and part-time workers
- Low-income residents
- Homeless people
- People over 60 years of age, people with compromised immune systems, those who are pregnant, and others with increased health risks associated with the novel coronavirus

- People of color
- People with disabilities
- Rural communities
- Tribal communities
- Undocumented individuals
- Other populations emerging with needs as the crisis unfolds

## **CAN INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR SUPPORT FROM THE FUND?**

Dollars from this fund will not be awarded directly to individuals. Instead, funding will support organizations, resources and efforts that help individuals and communities weather the impact of this pandemic.

## **HOW IS THE FUND STRUCTURED?**

Initial grants will be directed to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations, federally recognized tribes, and other public entities. If the Advisory Group identifies a critical gap that is not being addressed by any of these types of organizations, grants may be awarded to non-501(c)(3).

One hundred percent of contributions to this fund will be distributed to organizations swiftly as needs arise. The fund is intentionally established with flexibility in mind to ensure that these resources may support communities as conditions, circumstances, and needs change throughout this crisis.

## **WHO CAN CONTRIBUTE?**

The partners encourage individual donors, companies, additional funders and other organizations to contribute to the fund. Online gifts via credit card will have the most immediate impact. Donations of any amount are welcomed, and all contributions are eligible for a charitable deduction. If you are an Innovia Foundation fund holder and would like to recommend a grant from your fund, please log in to the donor portal or contact your donor relations advisor for instructions.

## **HOW WILL GRANT FUNDS BE DISTRIBUTED?**

In the first response phase, there will not be a formal request for proposal (RFP) process for organizations seeking grant funds. The COVID-19 Community Response Advisory Group will proactively identify priorities, solicit guidance on proposed projects

from community advisors, and recommend final awards. Grants will be made on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak, ensuring resources are deployed quickly and nimbly to meet evolving needs in real-time.

Please contact [info@innovia.org](mailto:info@innovia.org) for questions about the grantmaking process.

Initial funders to the COVID-19 Community Response Fund include:

- Empire Health Foundation
- Innovia Foundation
- Spokane County United Way
- Premera Blue Cross
- Women Helping Women Fund
- Premera Blue Cross
- MultiCare Health System
- Wells Fargo
- Avista Foundation
- Community Building Fund
- BNSF

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