

COVID-19 Relief Fund

For going on 73 years now, the Victoria County United Way has been working to ensure residents in the Crossroads area have opportunities for a quality education that leads to a stable job, income that can support a family through retirement, and good health. We have always stepped up to support our area's most vulnerable. We are there when the community needs us most. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, our United Way was instrumental in forming the local Long-Term Recovery Group and we still serve as the fiscal agent for select grants. We organized volunteers. We built affordable housing. We repaired homes. We helped our nonprofits continue to serve the community. In short, we were there. And this time is no different.

On March 24th, the Victoria County United Way created the COVID-19 Relief Fund, with the Golden Crescent COAD (Community Organizations Assisting in Disasters), to help those in our communities financially burdened in the wake of the coronavirus – working families experiencing lost time on the job who are now struggling to make rent and put food on the table, organizations providing vital services that are unable to meet growing needs with existing and dwindling resources, and those community resources that will be strained in the coming weeks and months.

To ensure we get the financial resources to the right areas at the right time and adapt to evolving needs, we will roll-out the fund in three (3) phases:

➤ **Phase 1: Response**

Present through April 10, 2020

Providing rent, utility, and bill assistance for households

We recognize the need to address the immediate needs of families and individuals. People across our rural communities are struggling in the economic wake of this pandemic - plummeting sales at local businesses, hourly workers in the service sector and the "gig" economy being disproportionately impacted, school closures resulting in unexpected childcare expenses or meal issues, to name a few of the issues we are seeing.

➤ **Phase 2: Relief**

April 13, 2020 through June 30, 2020

Funding identified essential service nonprofit organizations

The nonprofit organizations in our communities, those on the front-lines providing essential safety net services, deserve rapid assistance, as well. They are working with limited resources that are fast becoming scarce. In a recent survey, manpower and dollars topped the list for things keeping them from fully serving their clients. Many are also finding it difficult to move to a mobile/remote work environment due to the nature of their services.

➤ **Phase 3: Recovery**

July 1, 2020 through EOY

Meeting nonprofit and community needs

Nonprofits are looking at potential cash flow issues as early as a month or two down the road. Many are having to cancel the large fundraisers and relied upon income from billing on contracts may not be possible in the wake of service shutdowns. Additionally, the community is experiencing gaps in services and resources. Our recovery phase will examine ways to help nonprofits recover, while closing community resource gaps with an eye on the future.