

**CNJG Member Query**  
**March 20, 2020**

A member wants to know:

*How does your organization handle rapid response grants during a disaster or crisis in an equitable way to assure fairness in selecting grantees?*

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We like to put our money into pooled funds (with organizations like United Ways or community foundations) that have the capacity of getting money out quickly and know the needs of the partners.

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We haven't fully decided but our conversations have included:

Those that focus on the key areas:

- Elderly
  - Hunger (kids that rely on school meals)
  - Most vulnerable
  - Current grantees (our dollars are smaller so can't open too wide)
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I (as ED) can make small discretionary grants. However, I try to communicate with the board by email to get responses from them before making the award.

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Same question but for more long term recovery.

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To the extent it's helpful, here is what we've done so far at The Summit Foundation/Summit Area Public Foundation.

As you know, we're a community foundation focused primarily on the needs of our City, and we are an all volunteer organization. Two weeks ago, our grants leadership reached out to City, School district and key non-profit leaders in town about potential emergency response needs.

Based on those conversations, our board approved additional emergency funds, that could amount to an extra 15% of our normal annual grantmaking, on an as-needed basis for groups providing front line services in our community and those impacted by coronavirus related events. We gave our grants committee authority to deploy those funds without requiring formal grant proposals, so that funds could be used immediately if needed. Our conversations with leaders in town continue as this crisis evolves.

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Pascale Sykes' priority is to the grantees and families we currently serve.

We emailed our grantees, asking them to tell us what they are seeing, how families' needs have evolved and what they anticipate in the future.

Our staff will craft responses/plans, present them at a virtual meeting and invite grantees to make suggestions. Using grantee input, the Foundation will draft final responses/plans and announce them to grantees. Implementation will be tailored to each grantee's situation and Foundation staff will work with grantees individually. We will remain flexible.

We intend to reach out to other foundation and, where possible, coordinate with them to assure greater efficacy.

We have delayed the due date for proposals and reports.

Finally, we are using NJHeartland as our bulletin board, posting resources, news and other items of interest to grantees.

We may be doing more, but that's it for now.

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We are working to release our process in the next few days – Wednesday at the latest. We will have a very abbreviated and nimble application process. Grateful to have a strong network of nonprofits in our region, and many have already contacted us. We will communicate directly with them and have a fast turnaround time. I'd be happy to discuss details with any member who would like to learn more.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Vega  
President & CEO  
Princeton Area Community Foundation  
15 Princess Road  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
(609) 219-1800 x 110  
jvega@pacf.org

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Victoria is seeking to identify those agencies that have the greatest need in the moment and NOT make a blanket response because each grantee situation is different. Our trustees just approved \$1MM to help with the crisis. Of that \$500K will be going to a pooled fund managed by the United Way of Greater Newark and the other \$500K staff will seek to identify those grantees and non-grantees that need assistance during these times. We are also, reaching out to current grantees to switch current grants to general operating support and relaxing the grant monitoring process as well.

Craig Drinkard  
Victoria Foundation

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I hope you're staying healthy and safe. At TCS our primary focus is the safety and well-being of our 500,000 employees globally. As part of our CSR efforts we are committed to leveraging the best of what we do to support communities during this difficult period, and find new ways to provide our signature community engagement programs. We have been sharing our digital resources with educators and nonprofit edu partners. We'll also post them on LinkedIn shortly.

Lina Klebanov  
Tata Consultancy Services

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Rippel Foundation made a \$50K grant to Morristown Medical Center to support COVID-19 care across our local community. The grant was approved by the board and a completed within a few days. Perhaps that is helpful.

Laura Landy  
Fannie E Rippel Foundation

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The Grotta Fund for Senior Care has already awarded one grant in response to covid19- to supplement funding for kosher meals on wheels for recipients living in Essex and Union counties. We have received calls from non-profits worried about staying in business and spoken to our grantees (comprised of communities as well as agency sponsored programs) to assess needs. We want them to broaden the uses of their current funding, lessen the strings to meet their original benchmarks, and let us know how they are doing. We will review this information and consider an emergency funding cycle in the near future.

The Jewish Community Foundation has reached out to the agencies in Greater MW to determine urgent needs - this led to Grotta's recent grant.

Do you think a call with aging and health funders would be helpful to add to this information?

Renie Carniol

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We are working out a plan, but nothing has been approved by the Board yet. We are working as quickly as we can!

**Samantha Plotino**

Associate Executive Director

The Provident Bank Foundation

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We apologize for not responding sooner to Craig's request. We are committing to providing funding for emergency response in Newark managed by the United Way of Greater Newark and with the Princeton Area Community Foundation for the Greater Mercer County region. We appreciate that both pooled funds have streamlined processes to make funding decisions quickly. We'll continue to monitor and consider additional funding as we learn more about the immediate and re-building needs and better understand the federal and state response.

Like all of your partners, our grantees are facing deeply challenging times with the outbreak of COVID-19. Our maternal and child health and early childhood grantees have proactively communicated updates as they think through creative and efficient ways to respond to needs on the ground. We are committed to adjusting implementation plans as needed to ensure the health and well-being of grantee staff and the families they serve.

Here is our general grantee approach:

- Granting no-cost extensions to programs/projects that are on hold
  - Be flexible with grant goals, ensuring we prioritize what is realistic given closures and social distancing measures
  - Reduce the reporting, monitoring, and evaluation burden on our grantees
  - Continue current funding schedule for renewals as much as possible
  - Continue planned giving for fundraisers whether or not the event takes place

In partnership with The Nicholson Foundation, Turrell Fund, and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families, we are also considering how the NJ Funders ACEs Collaborative can be responsive to the current situation given the likely increase in adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) with new stressors on children and families.

We appreciate the opportunity to coordinate and learn from your approaches. And many thanks to CNJG for bringing us together to stay connected!

Atiya Weiss  
Burke Foundation

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The PSEG Foundation has donated \$45,000 to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey. Other donations are being assessed.

Marion O'Neill

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The State Arts Council has been working to see what avenues we have to help provide relief to our grantees during this time. As we are a state agency, we have more approvals required before we can move, but when we are able to share updates, I'll be sure to share with the group.

The Arts Council is happy to announce that we will be making our final FY20 payments to our current grantees (which includes individual artists and arts organizations) over the course of the next week. Typically, final payments are not given until final reports are completed at the end of the grant period (late July or so), but we worked to remove the tie between the final report and payment. (Given the systems we are required to work within through the state, this is not as simple as it may sound.) Luckily, our colleagues in the Department of State worked closely with us to make sure we could provide some financial relief as soon as possible. Releasing these funds early means we are about to infuse the arts sector with over \$3M in funding.

We are continuing to explore more ways we can support artists and nonprofit arts organizations in the coming weeks and months. We have also started a weekly email with COVID-19 resources for the sector. If any fellow funders have opportunities that would be available to artists or arts orgs, please send them my way so we can share them out and include them in our updates.

Michelle Baxter-Schaffer

NJ State Council of the Arts

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Let me add that the New Jersey Cultural Trust is currently working with the NJ State Council on the Arts on a possible source of aid that would be available relatively soon, and we will share information on that as soon as possible.

Sara Cureton  
Executive Director

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The Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation is continuing our two main programs unabated: funding 529 College Savings Accounts for every child in Salem, N.J. and supporting our 26 Forman Scholars who are currently in college. Our scholarship director has contacted each of these students to be sure they have what they need in terms of housing, technology, and money in the shutdowns that have occurred in colleges across the country. We are also supporting the 11 soon-to-be Forman Scholars whom we selected last summer and are completing their senior year at Salem High School. Their situation is particularly complicated because they are in the thick of making final college decisions in a very uncertain admissions landscape. We are also in regular contact with our sole local organizational grant recipient that has shifted from providing an afterschool program to providing pre-packaged lunches for kids throughout Salem city. Our board will be considering whether it is within our mission to support the Community Foundation of South Jersey's Covid-19 Response Fund.

Larry Van Meter  
Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation

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We are also reviewing all proposals on our current docket (pending proposals) and prioritizing renewals that make sense in this new climate. New proposals that do not address effects of the Covid-19 crisis will probably be tabled to the next quarter or beyond.

Marsha Atkind  
Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey

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FYI, Stone has released \$400,000 in \$50,000 increments to six (so far) organizations for regrants to support individuals who are experiencing immediate financial hardships, rent, car repair, childcare, food, etc., as a result of losing hourly wages. Distributions up to \$1,000 per applicant.

Recipient orgs include HABcore, Lunch Break, Parker Family Health, Interfaith Neighbors, Family and Children's Services, Brookdale Community College.

We have a working group meeting on a regular basis.

Checks were cut today.

More if you're interested.

Thanks.

Sam Huber  
Stone Foundation for New Jersey

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I am happy to report that The Hyde and Watson Foundation Grants Committee met on April 1, 2020, two weeks earlier than originally scheduled. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we felt that it was important to move up the date of the Grants Committee Meeting to propose expediting payment of the spring 2020 grants. The Grants Committee approved \$2,883,300 to 284 organizations to be payable in mid-April, approximately 6 weeks earlier than usual.

Our spring 2020 grantees were notified this week that The Hyde and Watson Foundation grant award letters and checks are being sent on April 14, 2020.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Bernie  
Mrs. Brunilda 'Bernie' Moriarty  
President