
The Miami Foundation is mobilizing philanthropic, government and business partners to launch The Community Recovery Fund that will provide critical operating support to nonprofit organizations whose ability to serve our residents has been severely diminished by the impacts of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Together, we can help sustain the vital work they do during this unprecedented community crisis and become more resilient for our future. The Miami Foundation has seeded the Fund with an initial $200,000 contribution.

As the county’s largest community foundation, The Miami Foundation is an experienced convener for passionate donors who want to help and organizations on the ground responding to immediate and prolonged community needs. Support The Community Recovery Fund now at MiamiFoundation.org/COVID19Response.

Need

Greater Miami’s nonprofits are the frontline for individuals in our community – particularly our most vulnerable - in time of crisis. Now, nonprofits themselves are facing serious operating challenges as anticipated revenues drop as a result of policies meant to limit the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus. Our local nonprofits selfless focus on those they serve has left them financially vulnerable - 40% have limited cash reserves to weather the uncertain circumstances being created by the coronavirus. These organizations do not have contingency funds and are in tough situations like choosing whether to cut services to residents in need and lay off staff, and making payroll, rent, and vendor payments on time with limited cash flows. Rent for nonprofits is the second largest expense, after personnel costs.

The two biggest revenue loss drivers in the nonprofit sector are 1) canceled revenue-generating events, and 2) fee-for-service reimbursement models. Nonprofits have had to cancel all upcoming events, which means a loss of revenue the event would have generated, and absorbing costs incurred that nonprofits will not get back. Arts and cultural organizations are at particular financial risk from canceled performances and events. Additionally, many health and human service providers with government contracts operate on a fee-for-service model and if they are not providing services, they are at risk of not being paid. In fact, more than 75% of Florida’s nonprofit sector’s revenue comes from either fee for service or government performance grants and contracts.

The local nonprofit sector will inevitably face new and increased demands as a result of this crisis. In Florida, the nonprofit sector employs the fourth largest workforce - it is in our best interest that we quickly support its full recovery.

Approach

As Miamians work to pull themselves out of this health and economic crisis, they are going to need the full support of a strong, healthy nonprofit sector. For that to be possible, nonprofits are going to need access to flexible funds to weather the impacts of COVID-19.

The Miami Foundation is a significant contributor and partner in the United Way of Miami-Dade’s Miami Pandemic Response Fund that will provide immediate emergency funding to maintain operations at nonprofits addressing food insecurity, providing rent/mortgage assistance, and micro-grants for small businesses. This type of rapid response fund is critical and will be able to move quickly to get money to the social service organizations on the front lines of this crisis serving the immediate needs of economically vulnerable populations.
The Community Recovery Fund at The Miami Foundation will supplement that short-term relief work by addressing the intermediate and long-term needs of our community. The Fund will make available unrestricted, operating support for local organizations of all types affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on supporting nonprofit recovery and community resiliency efforts.

The first phase of grants from The Community Recovery Fund will address the following:

- Support for organizations that lost crucial revenue from cancelled or low-turnout events and performances
- Working capital for organizations at risk of being displaced and unable to serve their constituents

Future grantmaking, once the full impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are known, will include a focus on the following:

- Planning efforts around crisis management, disaster preparedness and economic recession planning
- General operating support for organizations that are critical to the fabric of our nonprofit and arts community

Process

The Miami Foundation will use our extensive knowledge and experience from working with close to 1,000 nonprofit organizations in our community to proactively identify potential Fund recipients, solicit guidance from informed community advisors, and award grants. Additionally, we will work with local partners to survey organizations to assess needs. Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues, making it possible to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs in subsequent funding phases. We are not hosting a formal application process for the Fund at this time. As more information about the grantmaking process becomes available we will share it on The Miami Foundation website and with the community.

Questions

General questions about the Fund can be directed to Lindsey Linzer at llinzer@miamifoundation.org.

For nonprofits interested in learning more, please complete this form here.

For interested donors and partners, please contact Janell Kaplan at jkaplan@miamifoundation.org.

For media inquiries, please contact Matthew Beatty at mbeatty@miamifoundation.org.

Our Partners

Thank you to our partners who have come together from philanthropy, government, and business to support our community through The Community Recovery Fund.

FAQ

I'm an individual who's been affected by COVID-19. Can this Fund help me?
We understand many individuals and families have been affected by the outbreak already and more will continue to be affected. While this Fund is not able to provide grants to individuals, we will fund community-based organizations that have experience and history of providing people and families with services and support. As we begin to award grants, we will post them on The Miami Foundation here.

My organization is interested in resources from this Fund. Can we be considered?
We understand the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting nonprofits in many ways, including increased demand for their services, lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, as well as other challenges. In order to move resources quickly, we are not hosting a formal application process for the Fund at this time. You may complete
this form here to make sure we are aware of your organization’s work supporting economically vulnerable residents and families.

**I want to donate. Can I restrict my funding to a specific grantee or focus area?**
To ensure we move resources as efficiently as possible and respond to the needs of communities most impacted, we are not considering restricted donations at this time.

**Should I give to this Fund instead of making other donations?**
This Fund was not created to be the only vehicle resourcing critical community activities during this outbreak. Rather, it is working to facilitate getting more targeted resources into the community where it’s needed most. If The Community Recovery Fund priorities align with your values, please consider making a donation. We also encourage you to considering donating to the United Way’s Miami Pandemic Response Fund by clicking here. However, this is a critical time for so many, including the nonprofit organizations who’ve benefited from your giving in the past, as well as those who’ve had to cancel their annual fundraising events or depend heavily on public gatherings. Please continue to give to organizations you regularly support, and those that need your help at this crucial time. Now is the time to double down for our community as we have greater awareness of the depth and scale of the long-term ramifications of the outbreak. As other complimentary funds and efforts develop we will be sure to keep partners informed.

**Who is eligible to receive grants from this Fund?**
Our grants are limited 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, and other public entities. We are not able to fund individuals or businesses directly, labor unions, or other 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), and 501(c)(6) organizations.

**Is there a geographic area of focus for the Fund?**
The Community Recovery Fund will prioritize community-based nonprofit organizations serving Miami-Dade County.