



The Miami Foundation COVID-19 coronavirus response: The Community Recovery Fund

Greater Miami's recovery from the community impact of COVID-19 will hinge of the viability of our nonprofits. The Miami Foundation has mobilized philanthropic, government and business partners to support **The Community Recovery Fund**, securing resources nonprofits will need for the long road ahead. The Fund will provide critical operating support to bolster their capacity to serve our residents – capacity that has been severely diminished by curtailed, suspended and canceled community work and activities. Some providing essential services like food and shelter must continue operating, struggling to absorb the rising costs and risks. When community life resumes, nonprofits will face strong demand despite their compromised position.

Together, we can help them sustain operating capacity for the vital work needed to overcome tremendous social and economic challenges and become more resilient for our future. The Miami Foundation has seeded the Fund with an initial \$300,000 contribution and has raised more than \$1 million to support this need.

The Miami Foundation will leverage our unique strengths as the county's largest community foundation, our reach across the broadest range of issues and nonprofits, and our experience convening passionate donors to help organizations on the ground sustain their responses throughout the immediate and prolonged community needs. Support The Community Recovery Fund now at MiamiFoundation.org/COVID19Response.

Approach

The Community Recovery Fund at The Miami Foundation will address the unprecedented set of needs unique to COVID-19's impact to ensure urgent response services during a prolonged community shutdown, and robust recovery efforts for all residents and organizations to bounce back, as well as long-term initiatives to build greater future resilience.

How long our community will live with the spread of the coronavirus remains uncertain, but **the long road ahead will require stable, healthy nonprofits** to aid Greater Miami's residents in pulling through the health, social and economic consequences. Access to flexible operating funds is paramount - and will be the Fund's focus.

Local nonprofits quickly stepped up to lead Greater Miami's incredible response to the pandemic. They are caring for the sick, feeding hungry neighbors, and housing our most vulnerable residents. Others are educating our children and maintaining critical support resources. **The Community Recovery Fund will provide unrestricted operating support to local nonprofits striving to sustain essential response services as well as those whose ability to restart operations has been severely undermined.**

The first phase of grants from The Community Recovery Fund will provide:

- Funds to sustain operating capacity of nonprofits on the frontlines that are continuing essential support for vulnerable and disproportionately impacted populations, and those with roles equally key to our recovery.
- Support for organizations with loss of crucial revenue – such as fees for services, income from canceled events, performances, fundraisers, etc. – that makes their recovery and resuming operations highly uncertain.
- Working capital for organizations at risk of being displaced and unable to serve their beneficiaries.

Future grantmaking, once more impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are known, will focus on:

- 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.

Additionally, The Miami Foundation is a founding partner for the United Way of Miami-Dade's [Miami Pandemic Response Fund](#) that provides direct financial assistance to impacted families with emergency needs including

rent/mortgage assistance, food, medication and utilities. The Fund will also issue micro-grants to small businesses. This rapid response fund will help ensure that economically vulnerable populations impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic receive immediate financial assistance.

Community Need

Greater Miami's nonprofits are on the frontline for individuals in our community – particularly our most vulnerable – in time of crisis. These organizations are providing essential resources and supplies to help feed, house, and care for our neighbors who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

Our local nonprofits' selfless focus on those they serve has left them financially vulnerable - 40% have limited cash reserves to weather the circumstances created by the coronavirus outbreak. These organizations do not have contingency funds and are having to choose between cutting services to residents in need and laying off staff, or draining what resources they do have to cover payroll, rent - their second largest expense after staff - and vendor expenses. In Florida, the nonprofit sector employs the fourth-largest workforce.

Between services put on hold and needs that will arise from a community and economic shutdown not seen in a lifetime, our local nonprofits will inevitably face new and increased demands for help. We must be in a position to quickly support the sector's rapid restart and full recovery.

Process

The Miami Foundation will use our extensive knowledge and over 50 years of experience working with more than 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.

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. Individuals interested in receiving direct support should apply to the United Way's [Miami Pandemic Response Fund](#).

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.

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. Please continue to give to organizations you regularly support and those that need your help at this crucial time.

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.