



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN COLORADO**

**United Way
of Larimer County**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Northern Colorado COVID-19 Fund announces distributions

Pandemic response initiative impacts nonprofits by granting over \$1.25M

(Fort Collins, Colo.) – The Northern Colorado COVID-19 Response Fund – a partnership between the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and United Way of Larimer County – distributed final grants totaling \$271,000 to 13 organizations that responded to requests for proposals. This brought total distributions from the Response Fund to \$1,272,997. Recipient nonprofits are active across Larimer County, and every grant distributed went to a nonprofit seeking funding for critical needs that emerged as a direct response to COVID-19.

Grants were reviewed by a committee comprised of volunteers from Estes Park, Loveland, and Fort Collins – as well as staff members from the United Way and the Community Foundation. “As a member of the Grant Committee, I was amazed at the incredible number of nonprofit organizations in Larimer County who came together to creatively meet the immediate needs of our neighbors during this pandemic,” explained committee member Cecil Gutierrez, a former Loveland mayor who sits on the Foundation’s board of trustees. “I am so proud to live in a community with so many fabulous people dedicated to helping others. Simply awesome!”

The committee also vetted the requests to ensure vulnerable populations were not only receiving services, but that these service providers were utilizing their expertise and leadership to effectively respond to new challenges. The committee strongly considered grant requests that clearly demonstrated passionate, creative leadership, and detailed how receiving these funds would allow them to provide service to more people than otherwise would be possible. It most often awarded grants that made an immediate difference in our community, especially supporting those people faced with food insecurity, childcare needs, housing, or other disruptions caused by the pandemic.

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“This partnership and process demonstrates the ability of this community to quickly unite and activate – as funders, as agencies, as donors – and respond to immediate crises as well as long-term recovery needs,” said Deirdre Sullivan, who became president/CEO of United Way of Larimer County in August. “Having previously been an agency recipient of these COVID-19 Fund dollars supporting rent assistance and technology access for some of the most significantly impacted residents of our community, I have seen firsthand the direct impact of the funds and the coordinated distribution effort.”

The COVID-19 Response Fund primarily focused on funding basic human service needs in the earlier rounds, and was expanded to technology, training, or technical assistance in the later rounds.

Northern Colorado COVID-19 Response Fund Overview			
Round	# of Applications	Total \$ Requested	Total \$ Funded
1 (3/31/20)	35	\$727,769	\$200,125
2 (4/20/20)	48	\$494,340	\$334,497
3 (5/26/20)	47	\$423,334	\$466,875
4 (8/17/20)	13	\$271,500	\$271,500
TOTAL ALL ROUNDS:	125	\$1,916,943	\$1,272,997

“I look forward to a continued partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado for simple, swift, and responsive funding to meet community needs,” concluded the United Way’s Sullivan.

Though the competitive portion of the Northern Colorado COVID-10 Response Fund has ended, both organizations are closely monitoring the ongoing pandemic and needs of our community.

About the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado: The Community Foundation is a nonprofit, public foundation working for the benefit of charitable causes and organizations in Northern Colorado. It manages almost 550 individual charitable funds and over \$130 million in assets, and it serves a unique leadership role by bringing people and resources together around important local issues. Over 75 local nonprofit organizations house their endowments with the Community Foundation, and many individuals and businesses have established Donor Advised funds. nocofoundation.org

About the United Way of Larimer County: United Way of Larimer County (UWLC) is a one-stop resource for generosity in our community, ensuring that gifts of time, talent, and treasure address today's greatest needs – and reduce tomorrow's. UWLC encourages nimble and innovative human services and strengthens our community by supporting youth and education, financial stability, community engagement, and nonprofit excellence in Larimer County. uwaylc.org