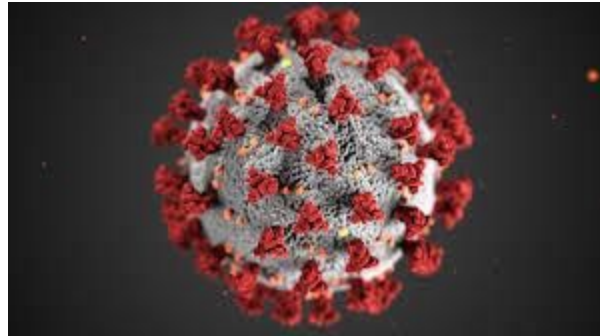


Local organizations receive COVID-19 response grants

April 8, 2020



The first grants from the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, totaling \$195,920, are going to 18 organizations in Del Norte, Curry, Humboldt and Trinity counties to help deal with the effects of the coronavirus.

The COVID-19 Fund was launched on March 20 by Humboldt Area Foundation and its affiliate the Wild Rivers Community Foundation in Del Norte County. With additional support from The California Endowment and The California Wellness Foundation, the fund started with \$150,000. During the first two weeks, over 55 individual contributions and donor pledges have grown the fund to more than \$285,000.

“Every one of our board members has given to the fund,” said CEO Bryna Lipper. “We live in a generous community and think \$1 million is within our reach. It will help thousands of people,” Lipper said.

To encourage giving to the fund, WRCF and HAF are taking no administrative fees, with 100 percent of every gift going to grants.

In making the grants, the organizations are using a streamlined review process that does not burden regional nonprofits and grassroots organizations with a lengthy application process. The grants are awarded to organizations such as food banks, senior centers and tribal services helping people such as seniors, those with compromised immune systems, homeless and first-responders.

“Our regional organizations and tribal nations are the boots on the ground for our vulnerable friends and neighbors, and they need support now. It’s imperative they get it rapidly,” said WRCF Director Gina Zottola.

Sara Dronkers, Director of HAF’s Grantmaking and Nonprofit Resources added, “Our team is reaching out daily to regional nonprofits, public agencies, businesses, civic leaders and Native communities from

Garberville to Crescent City in Northern California, and all of Curry County, Oregon, to help charitable organization on the front lines of service.”

Grants from the COVID-19 Fund are just one tool HAF is utilizing to meet the current crisis. Other resources being mobilized include loans to nonprofits, grants from other funds, fundraising from partner foundations, and community leadership activities to bring partners together for action.

Contributions, small or large, can be made to the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund online at www.wrcf.org or by mailing checks to HAF at 363 Indianola Rd, Bayside, CA 95524. For more information call (707) 465-1238.

The first grants made from the fund (as of April 2) are:

- United Indian Health Services: \$18,200, to get food and meals to 1,300 elders in local Native communities during the coronavirus pandemic and a gap in federal funding
- Del Norte Mission Possible: \$10,000, for increased program and management support
- Family Resource Center of the Redwoods: \$10,000, for its food
- Gold Beach Senior Center: \$10,000, to help with increased food distribution needs in Gold Beach and Port Orford, Ore.
- The Wiyot Tribe: \$1,000, for extra hygiene, cleaning and pet supplies for elders
- The Yurok Tribe: \$20,000, to provide additional hygiene packages, food delivery and firewood to tribal members, including 900 elders and 500 at-risk youth.
- 211 Humboldt: \$2,000, to the Mother Women Rising Support Group for extra help for clients
- Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives: \$5,000, for additional general operating support for homeless services