

Local organizations receive COVID-19 money from Humboldt area foundation

May 9, 2020



During the past two weeks, more grants from the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, totaling \$162,325, have gone to organizations in Humboldt, Trinity, Del Norte and Curry counties to help communities deal with the effects of the coronavirus.

The COVID-19 Regional Response Fund was launched on March 20 by Humboldt Area Foundation and its affiliate the Wild Rivers Community Foundation, in Del Norte County.

These latest grants, awarded through April 16, add to the \$195,920 previously awarded between March 20 and April 3. Combined, these grants totaling \$358,245, have gone to charitable organizations and Native communities in the region during the fund's first month, with more to come.

The COVID-19 Regional Response Fund is growing daily, with more than \$700,000 raised for immediate response and longer-term recovery, making these and future grants possible.

The fund has received over 80 individual contributions and donor pledges ranging from \$20 to \$50,000. Institutions and foundations have also contributed. These include The California Endowment, The California Wellness Foundation, Blue Shield of California Foundation, the Gordon Elwood Foundation, Humboldt Health Foundation and Pacific Gas & Electric Foundation.

To encourage giving, HAF is taking no administrative fees, with 100% of every gift going to grants.

The board of directors has also formed a task force to help in the individual fundraising effort.

Currently, HAF is making grants multiple times each week. The fund's priority is vulnerable communities and the organizations that support them. This includes charitable organizations supporting first responders

and healthcare providers; seniors; low-income families and youth; individuals with underlying health conditions; disabled; veterans; homeless; food insecure; Native communities and other communities of color; and those with limited or no healthcare resources.

In making the grants, HAF is using a streamlined review process that does not burden area nonprofits during this difficult time with a lengthy application process. Charitable organizations that have not been contacted and want to share their story can email grants@hafoundation.org with a brief summary of needs and contact information.

The additional grants made since April 3 are:

- Christian Help Food Bank, \$10,000, to help with increased food needs in the Gold Beach community during the coronavirus.
- Curry Coastline Neighbors, \$7,000, to get a delivery system of food and medicine for folks sheltering in place.
- Healthy Moms, \$950, to get cell phones or data cards for remote counseling needs for those sheltering in place.
- Hmong Cultural Center, \$10,000, for supplying culturally appropriate meals and groceries to Hmong families and elders during the coronavirus.
- NorCal Lao Foundation, \$8,000, to assemble emergency kits with medical and hygiene supplies and traditional foods for Lao and Hmong families, as well as translation of federal and state updates about the coronavirus.
- North Coast Veterans Resource Center, \$17,275, for additional operating costs in housing and providing resources to veterans experiencing housing insecurity during shelter in place orders.
- Oasis Domestic Violence Shelter, \$5,000, to help house victims of domestic abuse during a heightened number of domestic abuse cases related to the shelter in place order.
- Redwood Community Action Agency, \$5,265, to purchase Chromebooks for remote education for kids in the Parents and Children in Transition (PACT) program.
- Tolowa Dee-ni Nation, \$26,835, for food delivery, sanitary supplies & PPE for 307 households in Curry & Del Norte counties.

Contributions, small or large, can be made to the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund online at hafoundation.org/Giving/COVID19 or by mailing checks to HAF at 363 Indianola Rd., Bayside, CA 95524.

For more information, call 707-442-2993.