



## BERKSHIRE COUNTY COVID-19 RESILIENCY GRANTS

Our COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County has moved from emergency response to a recovery phase. The stress associated with this virus has increased the worry and anxiety for children, families, childcare providers, and our community. We want to be proactive in strengthening their resilience and are seeking proposals from nonprofit organizations to help support their healthy social and emotional development. We are offering a new RFP opportunity, COVID-19 Resiliency Grants.

The pandemic has changed many things about our daily lives, but even during this time, our children are still learning, developing, and growing. Parents/caregivers are trying to balance work, remote learning and added financial stressors. Greater opportunities are needed to support emotional wellness and healthy development. With spring arriving and the outdoors calling, we have the ability to provide healthy, positive, engaging activities that support families in a socially, COVID-safe manner.

Through the funding collaborative led by Berkshire United Way, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Northern Berkshire United Way and Williamstown Community Chest, the **COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County** is providing flexible resources to Berkshire County nonprofits to support innovative approaches to addressing emotional well-being for children, youth, and families. Grants will be awarded with the following conditions:

- Maximum grant award will be \$5,000.  
\*\*Some awards may be higher depending on available funding and demonstrated need.
- Programs must have a minimum of 10 participants.
- Agencies/programs must be located in and primarily serving Berkshire County residents.
- Programs must serve children and families who were significantly affected by the pandemic (poverty/low-income, unemployed, communities of colors and immigrants, people living with mental illness or substance disorders).
- Applications due by May 15, 2021.
- Funds must be used by September 30, 2021.

Suggested programming ideas could include new or increased access to:

- Arts and Cultural programming
- Counseling Services
- Outdoor/park activities
- Parent Groups (i.e. Parent Cafés, playgroups)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and environmental programming
- Summer Educational/Camp programming
- Youth Peer-to-Peer Groups

Berkshire United Way will administer grants from the Fund in close partnership with the funding collaborative.

Grantees will be notified on or before May 31, 2021.

**TO APPLY, EMAIL RESPONSES TO [KVOGEL@BERKSHIREUNITEDWAY.ORG](mailto:KVOGEL@BERKSHIREUNITEDWAY.ORG) TO ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING:**

1. Please describe the project you would like us to support. How does this project meet the social and emotional development or mental health needs of those most deeply affected by COVID-19?
2. How has your experience during the COVID-19 pandemic informed the work you are proposing to do?
3. Who are the primary beneficiaries for this program? What outreach methods will you use to reach the targeted populations mentioned above? How many people do you expect to reach?
4. What are the expected outcomes of this project?
5. If you are working with collaborative partners, what role do they play?
6. How will the funds be used over the next 3-4 months?

**QUESTIONS**

- General questions & inquiries about the COVID-19 Recovery Fund can be directed to the COVID grant team:
  - Karen Vogel at [kvogel@berkshireunitedway.org](mailto:kvogel@berkshireunitedway.org) or (413) 442-6948 ext. 20.
  - Maeve O'Dea at [maeve@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:maeve@berkshiretaconic.org) or (413) 229-0327 ext. 111
  - Christa Collier at [ccollier@nbunitedway.org](mailto:ccollier@nbunitedway.org) or (413) 663-9062
  - Anne Singleton at [asingleton@williamstowncommunitychest.org](mailto:asingleton@williamstowncommunitychest.org) or (413) 458-2443