Report on COVID-19 Emergency Response for Berkshire County

August 2020

#HereForGood

Berkshire United Way

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

United Way

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

United Way

Northern Berkshire United Way

Williamstown Community Chest
Berkshire United Way and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (BTCF), in partnership with Northern Berkshire United Way and Williamstown Community Chest, launched the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County to provide flexible resources to nonprofits working with communities disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and the economic consequences.

March 16

March 17-20

March 17-20

March 17-20

Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund awards its first grants to Berkshire nonprofits.

Berkshire United Way and Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation come together to respond to COVID-19 community needs.

With support from Berkshire County funders and partners, the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County launches and an RFP document and review team are established. First round of grants is distributed March 20.

Berkshire County COVID-19 Fund reaches more than $2.1M. Additional funding from BTCF’s N2N Fund & MA COVID-19 Relief Fund brings total to date to more than $3.3M.

April 24

June 25 & 30

June 25 & 30

July 22

Berkshire County COVID-19 Fund pauses grantmaking on June 25 (a total of 129 grants distributed to date). BTCF’s Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund pauses on June 30 after fourth round of grants.

August 3

To date, the three funds together distribute more than $3M through 186 grants to 99 organizations.
Berkshire County COVID-19 Emergency Response Dashboard

$3,291,144  Total Funds Raised

$3,019,282  Total Funds Distributed

75,000+  Lives Impacted

$2,102,951  Berkshire County COVID-19 Fund

$435,711  BTCF Neighbor-to-Neighbor

$752,482  MA COVID-19 Relief Fund

600+ donors
Comprised of individuals, corporations, foundations and BTCF fundholders

Grants by geography

Countywide 27%
North 23%
Central 30%
South 19%

Food
Health & Mental Health
Emergency Child Care & Youth Services
Housing & Homeless

*Distribution and impact estimates based on grantee reporting as of July 31
**Food**

- Adams Council on Aging *
- Al Nelson Friendship Center Food Pantry
- Berkshire Community Action Council *
- Berkshire Community College Foundation ****
- Berkshire Community Diaper Project
- Berkshire Dream Center
- Berkshire Food Collaborative Project
- Berkshire Food Project *
- Berkshire Grown *
- Berkshire Helping Hands
- Berkshire Hills Regional School District
- Berkshire Immigrant Center **
- Berkshire South Regional Community Center *
- Berkshire Tomorrow *
- Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires
- BRIDGE *
- Central Berkshire Regional School District
- CBRSD Weekend Backpack Program
- Chabad of the Berkshires
- Cheshire Food Pantry
- Christ Trinity Church
- Christian Center
- Community Food Pantry at South Congregational Church
- Dalton Council on Aging
- Elder Services of Berkshire County *
- Elizabeth Freeman Center
- Farmington River Regional School District
- Food Bank of Western Massachusetts *
- Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires and Southern Vermont
- Great Barrington Farmers' Market
- Greenagers
- Hinsdale Food Pantry
- It Takes a Village
- Manos Unidas
- North Adams Farmers Market
- Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
- Our Lady of Charity
- The People’s Pantry
- Pittsfield Public Schools
- Price Memorial AME Zion Church
- Richmond Consolidated Schools
- Rites of Passage and Empowerment (R.O.P.E.)
- Roots Rising *
- ROOTS Teen Center
- Salvation Army
- Southern Berkshire Regional School District
- Town of Williamstown/Farmers Market
- Town of Windsor
- Western Mass Labor Action
- Williamstown Food Pantry

**Health & Mental Health**

- Berkshire County Arc
- Berkshire Family & Individual Resources (BFAIR)
- Berkshire Health Systems – Berkshire Medical Center
- Berkshire Health Systems – Cancer Center **
- Berkshire Health Systems – Macony Pediatrics **
- Berkshire Hills Regional School District
- Berkshire HorseWorks
- Berkshire Nursing Families
- Berkshire Sewing Team
- BRIDGE *
- The Brien Center *
- Central Berkshire Command Center
- Community Bible Church
- Community Health Programs **
- Ecu-Health Care
- Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health
- Mass 2-1-1
- Mount Carmel Care Center
- NAMI Berkshire County
- North County Emergency Planning Commission
- Northern Berkshire EMS
- UCP of Western Massachusetts
- Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires **
- Western Mass Recovery Learning Community

**Emergency Child Care & Youth Services**

- 18 Degrees **
- Arts in Recovery
- Barrington Stage Company
- Berkshire County Head Start
- Berkshire Family YMCA
- Berkshire South Regional Community Center *
- Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires
- BRIDGE *
- Child Care of the Berkshires *
- Child Development and Education, Inc.
- Community Legal Aid
- Dalton Community Recreation Association *
- Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center *
- Kids Arts Production
- Lee Youth Association *
- MassHire Berkshire Career Center
- Railroad Street Youth Project
- Rites of Passage and Empowerment (R.O.P.E.)
- ROOTS Teen Center
- Youth Services

**Housing & Homeless**

- Berkshire Bridges Working Cities
- Berkshire Center for Justice
- Berkshire Housing Development Corporation & Berkshire Housing Service **
- Cathedral of the Beloved
- Berkshire South Regional Community Center *
- South Berkshire Emergency Response Center & Fairview Hospital
- Louison House
- ServiceNet
- Soldier On

* Jointly funded through Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund
** Funded by the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund
*+ Jointly funded through MA COVID-19 Relief Fund
++ Funded by the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund
BERKSHIRE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND GRANTS BY SERVICES PROVIDED

- **Food**: 41%
- **Health and mental health services**: 21%
- **Housing and homeless services**: 15%
- **Emergency child care**: 14%
- **Youth services**: 9%

$2M Awarded

Services are not mutually exclusive
BERKSHIRE COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND GRANTS BY SUB-POPULATION

$2M Awarded

- Low-income families 44%
- Seniors 14%
- Communities of color and immigrants 9%
- Essential workers 8%
- Youth 7%
- People experiencing homelessness 5%
- People living with a disability 3%
- People living with mental illness 3%
- People living with an addiction disorder 2%
- COVID-19 patients 2%
- New mothers and newborns 2%
- Victims of domestic violence 1%

Sub-populations are not mutually exclusive
From the Frontlines

We are providing funding primarily in the service area of food, with significant support offered for health and mental health services, housing and homeless services, and emergency child care and youth services. Here are a few examples of how the funds are helping the community.

**FOOD**

The Hinsdale Food Pantry had been closed since spring 2019. When the pandemic hit, volunteers opened a mobile pantry on April 9 in the parking lot of the Hinsdale Trading Company to respond to the increase in food insecurity.

With additional funding from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, the food pantry is able to distribute bags of nutritional food to more than 100 residents of Hinsdale, Peru and Washington each week.

**HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH**

Marianna was working full time at a local hotel/spa when she was laid off due to the pandemic. Her children live far away and are busy, causing her to feel alone and isolated.

She called the NAMI-Berkshire County Warm Line, which was established with support from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. Marianna’s primary language is Spanish, so the Warm Line connected her with a Spanish-speaking volunteer. They continue to talk weekly.

**HOUSING**

A grant from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund has allowed Fairview Hospital & Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning to provide housing for health care workers during the pandemic.

A young mom and nurse travels to the Berkshires to work double shifts at a local residential facility. While she works, she leaves her infant daughter with her parents, who live locally, then stays overnight.

When she was assigned to care for patients with COVID-19, she slept in her car to protect her baby and mother, who is recovering from cancer. She was thrilled to learn she would be able to stay in a hotel room for free while she continues to work.

**YOUTH SERVICES**

ROOTS Teen Center in North Adams used a grant from the Fund to offer a culinary program, which filled to capacity and now has a waitlist, and a bicycle workshop to encourage youth to get outside while practicing social distancing.

The grant helped the Center provide 12 youth with a refurbished bicycle, helmet, lock and lights and offer a virtual 2-hour safety workshop and 2-hour maintenance workshop.

Both programs will serve a total of 24 youth.
Anonymous (2); Callahan Dee Family Foundation; The Joyce and Fred Crane family’s Cooper Meadow Fund*; Patty and Tim Crane Fund*; Fairbank Family Fund*; Jane & Jack Fitzpatrick Trust; Fuqua Family Fund*; The Gilson Family Foundation; The James & Robert Hardman Fund*; James and Irene Hunter Fund*; Jane Iredale*; Mary Pope Osborne; Donald C. McGraw Foundation/Black Rock Foundation Fund*; Joseph H. and Carol F. Reich Fund*

*Funds of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation