

The review process consists of a grant team with representatives from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Berkshire United Way, Northern Berkshire United Way and Williamstown Community Chest, as well as community volunteers from various sectors, reviewing applications daily. This list will continue to be updated.

AS OF MARCH 27, 2020

Total amount granted: \$492,500

NONPROFIT

REGION

Adams Youth Center

Northern Berkshire

Has been approved by EEC as an exempt childcare program to provide care for up to 14 children, Monday-Friday, 6:30 am to 6:30 pm, for essential workers and vulnerable families that have no other options for child care. Will purchase additional materials and supplies to expand the STEM curriculum, to give the staff additional pay, and to support added cleaning and sanitizing costs.

Berkshire Bridges Working Cities

Central Berkshire

Through their Community Navigators program, increase outreach and services to immigrant populations who cannot access some of the benefits rolling out, households that were already struggling before the crisis, and households isolated by lack of transportation or quarantine.

Berkshire County ARC

Berkshire County

To secure supplies for the houses and personal protective equipment for the staff who care for the individuals. Seven of the 42 group homes have been ordered to be quarantined; 85 staff and individuals are quarantined and numerous more are waiting for test results.

Berkshire County Diaper Project

Berkshire County

To purchase 30,000 diapers, a typical six-week supply. During this time, they are continuing to provide diapers to all of their usual partners for distribution, as well as additional sites and human service agencies still open.

Berkshire Dream Center

Central Berkshire

To keep the Mobile Food Pantry open to provide food and other essential needs to the Morningside community, as well as keep the trucks running with fuel and one staff on site to oversee the volunteers.

Berkshire Family YMCA

Pittsfield and North Adams

To help emergency child care sites provide safe, consistent child care for emergency workers to enhance the community's ability to respond to the pandemic.

Berkshire Food Project

Northern Berkshire

In the near term, to purchase prepared sandwiches and meals to increase capacity to serve more, as well as provide access to prepared food on Tuesdays and Thursdays when meals are not provided. Over the next month, to purchase prepared sandwiches and ready to-eat food, as well as gift cards to local food providers in \$10 increments.

Berkshire Helping Hands

Northern Berkshire

To directly purchase and home deliver needed supplies, food, toiletries and other direct needs to families with children, the elderly and the homeless.

Berkshire Immigrant Center

Berkshire County

To provide micro-grants of \$500 to the most vulnerable among their clients, including those they know

to be low-income and at-risk due to age, underlying health conditions or need to continue to work in jobs that put them at personal risk.

Berkshire Nursing Families

Berkshire County

To purchase two Medela Baby Weigh Scales to be used for home checks by phone and later retrieved outside the home, as well as sensitive baby scales and masks, gloves, antiviral wipes and blue chucks for personal and family protection.

Berkshire Tomorrow, Inc. (BRPC)

Pittsfield

To secure meals for children from Berkshire County restaurants and distribute them on Saturdays and Sundays when school districts are not providing meals. On March 21 and 22, 700 meals were served from eight restaurants. It is estimated that this amount will provide over 3,500 meals during the timeframe of March 21-April 12.

Cathedral of the Beloved

Pittsfield

An outdoor worshipping community that has met those experiencing homelessness and poverty every Sunday on the lawn of St. Joseph's. This grant will address some basic needs for the homeless, the housing insecure and the hungry. St. Stephens has offered its sanctuary as a drop-in center for this vulnerable population.

Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity

Central Berkshire

To cover mortgage payments, taxes and insurance for 29 families representing 115 people for 60 days.

Central Berkshire Regional School District

Central Berkshire

To expand the grab-and-go program to include all free and reduced lunch for CBRSD students now participating due to the extended school closure.

Central Berkshire Regional School District

Central Berkshire

Weekend Backpack Program

To help cover the purchase of additional food and restricted grocery cards for families impacted by the extended school closure.

Cheshire Food Pantry

Northern Berkshire

To restock the pantry to continue to assist seniors and the families of Cheshire.

Community Health Program

Berkshire County

To purchase critically needed supplies and materials, as well as helping to bridge gaps in service due to significant shifting of resources during this outbreak. CHP is actively treating patients while trying to keep patients and health care workers safe.

Construct

Southern Berkshire

To maintain essential services to those who are homeless or living with low income in South County and to increase social and financial supports for those unable to meet their basic needs.

Gladys Allen Brigham Center

Pittsfield

To help pay salary costs for staff who have stepped forward to provide care for 40 children, vulnerable and those of families designated as essential workforce.

Louison House

Northern Berkshire

To create more space for current residents and fire victims that could rise by 10. Recently, 18 were displaced by fire and needed shelter housing.

Mass 2-1-1

Berkshire County

To help staff meet the high call volume due to inquiries about COVID-19 resources and assistance.

NAMI Berkshire County

Berkshire County

Will partner with Berkshire Pathway to create a "Warm Line" that will be manned part time by persons with lived experience and in recovery from mental illness who can listen, guide and offer much needed empathy and tips to calm a person during a period of high anxiety. Funds will be used to enhance phone-to-phone servicing and also incorporate a video-based means of connection.

North Adams Ambulance

Northern Berkshire

To keep the Northern Berkshire COVID-19 Operations Center support hotline appropriately staffed to handle the projected call increases for requests to help children, elderly, and under and uninsured.

Pittsfield Public Schools

Pittsfield

To off-set the cost of food, providing a nutritious entrée, a fruit or fresh vegetable and low-fat milk to grab-and-go sites in Pittsfield for as long as students are not in school.

Roots Rising

Berkshire County

To launch a virtual farmers market where shoppers can place online orders with multiple vendors. Those with SNAP benefits will have their money matched through grant funds. Once a week, farmers will bring purchased goods to a central drop-off point and volunteers will package the orders and deliver them to the doorsteps of the shoppers.

Salvation Army

Central Berkshire

To purchase food products, beverages and packaging to be able to prepackage individual bagged lunches for distribution through their feeding program and food pantry.

United Cerebral Palsy

Pittsfield & North Adams

To support a food/supply pantry, as well as pay for personal protective equipment and travel of the caregivers making special runs. Will help sanitize the drop-off centers to contain the potential risk of spreading the virus from the returning caregivers.

Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires

South County

To coordinate resources for the immigrant community and to increase patient care coordination staffing, which will allow them to increase capacity and build on their vital role in supporting patients around social determinants of health (needed resources in the community).

Williamstown Food Pantry

Northern Berkshire

To expand capability to support patrons with groceries (food and personal care products) and emergency assistance with utilities and child-care expenses at this time.

IN-KIND DONATIONS**1,690 heads of lettuce**

Berkshire County

Donated by the Berkshire Education and Correction Service Aquaponic Training Facility at the Berkshire

County Sheriff's Office. On March 18, 440 went to South Congregational Church in Pittsfield, 280 to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Great Barrington, 60 to Claire Teague Senior Center and 60 to People's Pantry. On March 23, 600 to South Congregational Church in Pittsfield. On March 24, 250 to Adams Council on Aging, The Friendship Food Pantry in North Adams and The Williamstown Food Pantry at St. Patrick & Raphael Parish.