

Appendix: Grantee Reporting by Services Provided

The following tables summarize work conducted by grantees of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County. Please note:

- This is a working document until the fund reporting period closes and will be kept up to date. Reports are current through date marked in footer.
- Reports for grant purposes marked with an asterisk (*) have not been received, as they are either active grants and are either: 1) not yet due, 2) extended, or 3) late, or are incomplete.

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Food

Grantee	Adams Council on the Aging	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$4,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide 100 older adult households with a “Stay Active Basket” and hope to address mental stimulation and physical activity opportunities.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided food and companionship to 72 households with seniors (many or whom live alone) through personal visits • Small businesses were supported by purchases • Seniors served feel less isolated now: “Individuals felt a connection to someone or someplace that they have been missing for several weeks now.... People needed to see we’re still here for them.” 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater advocacy with the Commonwealth: “It’s been an opportunity to show the state how many of the underfunded/paid human serve agencies--in particular Councils on Aging--are critical and essential.” • “When you bring tears to a WWII veteran for your act of kindness, it overwhelms you and makes it all worth it.” 		

Grantee	Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$14,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	1)To supply 100 seniors with a basket of canned goods, pasta, sauce, paper supplies and a \$50 gift card to a local supermarket, the staff of which will shop for the senior and deliver to their home. 2)To provide another 100 baskets for the elderly population		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided food for 205 seniors who had lacked access • Successful partnerships with other agencies: identified the neediest and distributed food through partnerships with other elder services and the Council on Aging. • Seniors served felt relieved and happier: "Each senior had a smile, coupled with relief." 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcame significant challenges in securing necessary items from food stores in short supply. • "[One senior] has been having a hard time financially since her husband passed away a year or two ago; almost all of her income goes to the mortgage of the home. She often has a neighbor go to food pantries for her. She said that this was a huge help and she couldn't be more thankful." 		

Grantee	Berkshire Community Diaper Project	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$17,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	New mothers and newborns	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) To purchase 30,000 diapers (a typical six-week supply) in continuing to provide diapers to all usual partners for distribution, as well as additional sites and human service agencies still open.</p> <p>2) To purchase two full months' worth of diapers from the National Diaper Bank Network and other sources to continue distributing to established partnering food pantries and human service agencies, individual families, to four added recipients in response to the pandemic, and to the Salvation Army.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 100,000 diapers purchased and mostly distributed to mothers and newborns • While not all partners reported, those that did served more 682 low to moderate income families • New partnerships developed with three large agencies that served as distribution sites • Supplied a network of agencies throughout Berkshire County that are continuing to work together to meet the increased need locally for food and diapers. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also answered direct solicitations • Many of the families served were housebound due to the pandemic and had no alternatives • “One woman who received diapers from 18 Degrees said that she had never needed to get diapers from an agency before, but she was newly unemployed due to the pandemic; she was appreciative of having diapers available to her in this way.” 		

Grantee	Berkshire Dream Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To keep the Mobile Food Pantry open to provide food and other essential needs to the Morningside community, as well as to keep the trucks running with fuel and one staff on site to oversee the volunteers.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided food to 1,785 individuals from low-income families in the Morningside community • Kept the operations of the food pantry running safely during the pandemic 		
Other Highlight(s)	“We have measured the success of this program from the feedback we have received from those we are serving, seeing an increase in our numbers from week to week, and our volunteers who have been serving are consistent and excited to come back.”		

Grantee	Berkshire Food Collaborative Project	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	Working with three regional food coordinators to build plans for assessing the food access networks in the county and building an action plan for the COVID-19 response, as well as a sustainability plan.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships created with 67 organizations, including councils on aging, schools, restaurants, farms, community organizations, and transportation organizations • \$700K provided to food access programs • 15 new food access programs established • 327,114 pounds of food distributed in food pantries • 22% of April food pantry patrons were first-time visitors 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South County: Worked with organizations to provide fresh and local produce, milk and eggs to four Berkshire school districts • Central County: Partnered with organizations to include 100 households lacking food access in food pantry delivery distribution • North County: Five emergency food sites partnered with Goodwill Industries to transport food from the Food Bank of Western MA to food distribution sites, more than doubling food transportation capacity 		

Grantee	Berkshire Food Project	Total Grant(s) Awarded	4 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) 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.</p> <p>2) Additional funding to purchase approximately 3,000 meals from establishments between April 13 and May 8 to feed an increasing number of families and individuals seeking assistance.</p> <p>3) To provide two meals, half prepared by local restaurants and half prepared in their own kitchen, to 55 individuals among 22 families through the end of May. Meals delivered by the Emergency Operations Center in City Hall.</p> <p>4) To support meals, materials and supplies needed to get back to normal operation.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided ~27,300 meals to 1037 individuals (through July) • Deepened partnerships with restaurant owners that will be long-lasting • Have significantly helped several local restaurants open during the pandemic 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “These funds allowed us to continue operation without the slightest disruption in service – and absolutely met our proposed objective of continuing to meet a rising and unprecedented need as it unfolded.” • “...this new concept of nonprofits and for profits working together as partners is really new territory. This is one of the most important positive aspects of the entire crisis I think.” • “People are grateful, thankful and understanding. Many have never been in a position to need a free meal and it is scary and embarrassing to them, but once they understand that our entire community is helping with this because we all care and know it’s not their fault, they are okay.” • Their new normal: “Currently, about half of the people we see regularly are new since the COVID crisis and about half are people who were dining with us prior to the crisis.” (end of July) 		

Grantee	Berkshire Grown	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$32,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) To purchase food from local farms and support a small portion of the additional and unexpected costs for the organizations whose staff have taken on this project in addition to their regular workload. “Will benefit low-income families and adults facing food insecurity, as well as Berkshire farmers whose normal market channels have all but dried up.”</p> <p>2) To purchase 600 half gallons of milk from local farmers to deliver on a weekly basis through June to Berkshire Hills Regional, Farmington River, Lee Public and Southern Berkshire school districts, Community Health Program office and People’s Pantry in Great Barrington.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided fresh, locally-grown produce, eggs and milk for 600 low-income families • Coalition formed with Southern Berkshire school districts, Councils on Aging, local senior centers, and Community Health Program/WIC • 11 local farms supported 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>Learned that we need to look at our regional food supply as a whole to address issues of food supply, income inequality, and the support of small farms and the distribution of local food.</p>		

Grantee	Berkshire Helping Hands	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$3,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To directly purchase and home-deliver needed supplies, food, toiletries and other direct needs to families with children, the elderly and the homeless.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered care packages to 168 low-income households with elderly and health-compromised residents who were unable to leave their homes • Donated items included essential, hard-to-find items, such as Lysol Spray, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“We assisted a woman who works at a local nursing facility that has a disproportionate amount of patients and staff with COVID-19. She contracted the disease herself and had to go into isolation. Her husband is undergoing chemotherapy for terminal cancer and had to be kept away from the home. She recovered, but in order for her husband to come home, she needed supplies to completely disinfect her home. We were able to locate all the products she needed and she was able to get her husband home to spend his final days with his family.”</p>		

Grantee	Berkshire Hills Regional School District	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$21,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	1) To serve each family (225 students) three bags of food every Friday. 2) To continue to serve each family (225 students) three bags of food every Friday.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplies for 33,180 nutritious meals delivered to 100 low-income families with 158 students Families in need received help through outreach by schools and community partners 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>"Interestingly both families and volunteers were affected by our work. We had more than one family tell us that due to having young children at home (rather than at school), they weren't able to get to the store and didn't have much food in their house. Being able to come to us, to pick up food that week meant that they could eat. We gave them extra meat and cheese, in order to ensure they had enough for everyone for the week."</p> <p>"Volunteers, particularly in the beginning, were actually thanking us for letting them work with us. They felt helpless and unable to do anything to help during the crisis and being able to pack or deliver food made them feel like they were making a little bit of difference."</p> <p>"It has been overwhelming to see how the community comes together to provide support to individuals and families during a time of crisis. It is something to remember for the next emergency, no matter how small or large. People are out there just waiting to be asked."</p>		

Grantee	Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) – Berkshires Tomorrow, Inc.	Total Grant(s) Awarded	5 Awards = \$108,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield/Adams
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>Weekend Restaurant Program (\$58,000)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To secure meals for children from Berkshire County restaurants and distribute them on Saturdays and Sundays when school districts are not providing meals. 2) To provide an additional 150 meals in Adams in cooperation with Adams/Cheshire School District April 11, 18 and 25. 3) To cover costs of 500 care packages of groceries to be distributed to Pittsfield Public School families on April 21 to cover spring break while food distribution is suspended. <p>Berkshire Farmer's Market (\$50,000)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) For Berkshire Farmer's Market to purchase necessary supplies and equipment to help 12 participating markets operate in compliance with state-issued regulation. 5) To support the SNAP Market Match program at Berkshire County Farmers Markets. (Made possible by funding from Berkshire Health Systems.) 		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 21 and 22, 700 meals were served from eight restaurants. • 2000 low-income households (not unduplicated, or 400 per week x 5 weekends) received emergency food at 4 sites on days that schools were not distributing meals; local restaurants supported; strong coalition with Pittsfield Public Schools and Boys and Girls Club of Pittsfield; best practices shared to North and South County • 500 low-income families received care packages during April vacation week when school cafeterias were closed; successful collaboration with Pittsfield Public Schools and Boys' and Girls Club of Pittsfield • 14 area farmers markets, which serve thousands of families, were reimbursed for supplies and equipment need to meet state-issued COVID-19 operational regulations on short notice; markets were able to stay in operation; shoppers accessed food safely 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong showing by volunteers and local restaurants • The April Vacation Care Package project impacted not only recipients, but local businesses and volunteers as well • "In addition to students, we started seeing adults visit the meal sites, which allowed us to recognize and address additional needs in the community." • "On the first week of meal distribution we had a to-go box filled with pasta and meatballs, we opened up the container to show a child what it looked like and, he said, "Wow, this is the best meal I have ever seen." 		

Grantee	Berkshire South Regional Community Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To improve access to food in South County. Nourishing Neighbors will aim to provide 500 restaurant-prepared meals via a drive-through non-contact distribution managed through Berkshire South. Home-bound can place orders for delivery on a first-come, first-serve basis. Restaurants will deliver meals to the center each Wednesday and volunteers will distribute that afternoon.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5600 meals distributed to seniors (including the home-bound), young families, ESL, unemployed and disabled individuals. • 10 small, independently-owned local restaurants supported 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Food insecurity is a very real problem in the southern Berkshires, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.” • Impressive support by volunteers, donors, restaurants and suppliers: “We have been humbled and heartened by the outpouring of support that we’ve witnessed as neighbors nourish one another in both body and spirit.” • One low-income, homebound senior citizen living off of canned tuna received essential meals and human connection 		

Grantee	Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	For staff supporting the Weekend Restaurant Program and for cleaning the facility after being used to put together and distribute meals on Saturdays and school vacation week, as well as being used for delivery of food for Berkshire Family YMCA child care.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff paid for food distribution and cleaning • Distributed food to 500+ individuals • Partnerships built with Pittsfield Public Schools and the Berkshire United Way 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“We have a father who comes all 4 days on a bike to pick up food for his children. He gets here usually 30 minutes before we open to be first in line. We have developed a relationship with him and may even have him work with for us after this is all over. I asked him one day why he comes so early and he stated he wouldn’t be able to live with himself if his kids went hungry.”</p>		

Grantee	Central Berkshire Regional School District	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	1. 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. 2. Weekend Backpack Program: To help cover the purchase of additional food and restricted grocery cards for families impacted by the extended school closure.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98 students from low-income families fed during the extended school closure • Families also benefited from 32 \$40 gift cards, which allowed for additional choice and control in meeting food security needs • Families referred to other needed resources and services in the community 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Program had the opportunity to meet Program participants and their families and engage in conversations about other needs the families were experiencing as a result of the pandemic; the Program was able to provide information and connect families to other local community resources and services to meet their increased needs at this challenging time. • The mother of two Program participants shared with the Program that as a single-mother of two (one son having autism and increased needs) who was not able to work during the pandemic as the local restaurant where she was employed as a waitress closed, the Program was a “godsend” and “lifeline” for her and her two boys. She expressed great appreciation in particular for the grocery gift cards that gave her the choice and control to help meet her family’s food needs. 		

Grantee	Chabad of the Berkshires	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$24,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	1)To provide Passover food packages that include meat, fish, chicken, fruit and vegetables to families and the elderly. 2)To distribute another 450 food packages to families, youth and elderly.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed 315 food packages • Served 310 people in low-income families 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteers contributed a tremendous amount of time in packaging the food and delivering the care packages safely • “Chabad has learned from experience that the COVID -19 pandemic has impacted many disproportionately who are uncomfortable coming forth and requesting for help. With the tremendous help from community members we were able to discover some of those families and assist them without causing them to feel uncomfortable.” • “Recently when a food package with hot meals was delivered to an elderly man, he called to say thank you from the bottom of his heart for the food package. He cried and cried and said ‘I have not eaten for six days.’ We now deliver him meals three times a week to ensure that he never goes hungry again.” 		

Grantee	Cheshire Food Pantry	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$7,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	1)To restock the pantry to continue to assist seniors and the families of Cheshire. 2)To reach an additional 100 residents during May. Food bags are delivered to those with without transportation or in isolation.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140 households provided emergency food, paper products and personal items at the pantry and by delivery • 102 additional households provided food and/or gift cards 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Recently, a young 89 year old woman who has always said, ‘No, I don’t need it – give it to someone who does.’ Well, this month her daughter called and said she was driving her Mom over through the drive-thru pantry. We did the intake over the telephone, and Mom and daughter drove thru. On Monday morning, I received a call from the Mom and she said, ‘Thank you so much, I felt it was like Christmas going through the bag and getting all this food.’” • “Many said they were going to treat themselves to some meat as they can’t afford it on their monthly budget. 		

Grantee	Christ Trinity Church	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$15,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To expand the community sponsor program feeding families in Southern Berkshire Regional School District to include meals for the elderly. Working with Dan Smith at John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant to create senior-sized meals and looking for a way to identify seniors in need and a safe distribution system.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 739 meals (containing 2,326 servings) provided to seniors and students in low-income households 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Even though it is harder to involve the community than it would be to just purchase meals with grant money alone, it is worth the effort to reach more people and build the bonds of community.” • “We work with John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant for our senior meals. One senior upon delivery of their meal asked who made the meal. When the driver told her that it was from John Andrews, she simply could not believe that she would be eating a meal from such a ‘fancy’ restaurant. To her, this was not just a meal that would feed her twice over the weekend, but an extravagant luxury that she would have never purchased on her own. The meal itself made her feel cared for by the community. The place the meal came from made her feel even more special.” 		

Grantee	Christian Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	Will fund food and household supplies for a food pantry twice a week, as well as support efforts at the Hilton Garden Inn, where CHP and the state have established housing for homeless clients that are positive or suspected positive.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch program and food pantry served more than 1 000 individuals • Also provided face masks and hand sanitizer • Through the Pittsfield BagShare Laundry Program, provided 190 low-income families with laundry detergent and 25 families with laundry services for a month • Detergent distributed through Christian Center food pantry; free laundry service provided by Zion Lutheran Church's Laundry of Love program • Able to expand service and keep doors open 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "I learned that a lot of under resourced residents are still in need. This was only a band-aid. It helped for a short time but I feel that we need permanent solutions." • "We learned to quickly adapt and be willing to change as the situation on the ground changes and that is something we are still learning every day." • "We have had multiple families come in for food for the first time ever. They recently lost their jobs, were scared and embarrassed. Having the extra funding we had plenty to offer and our staff were able to help them feel comfortable and safe." 		

Grantee	Dalton Council on the Aging	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$6,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To support outreach and wellness efforts to senior citizens impacted by social distancing. Will address providing information and tools to prepare seniors for the gradual reopening of social life and the emotional challenges of disconnectedness.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided care bags to 100 senior individuals over the age of seventy years and living alone • Provided 40 smaller care packages to frail elders and those living with dementia 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations and discounts from suppliers helped a great deal • “The most important lesson learned was that we were completely unprepared for an event of this magnitude. COVID-19 not only severed contact with seniors to us but also us to them.” 		

Grantee	Elder Services of Berkshire County Inc.	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To help maintain social distancing and maintain a sanitized kitchen environment, and to provide supplies like face masks, disposable gloves and sanitizer for staff in the kitchen and drivers for the Meals on Wheels program.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through Meals on Wheels, provided nutritious meals to 100 seniors (new clients). • Ensured that existing clients received their delivered meals without any interruption of service as well as these new seniors added to the program as a direct result of COVID-19. • Protected the safety and health of kitchen staff, drivers, volunteers and seniors receiving meals. • Well-being checks made by drivers decreased seniors' anxiety, fear, loneliness and isolation—all feelings that were intensified as a direct result of COVID-19. 		
Other Highlight(s)	A senior with COVID-19 requested home delivered meals temporarily as she was quarantined. Emergency home delivered meals started on April 10th and she was able to continue receiving meals until June 18. Meals on Wheels ensured that she was able to be safe and receive nutritious food during her recovery.		

Grantee	Elizabeth Freeman Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Victims of domestic violence	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To improve access to food for children and youth, and especially immigrant survivors, particularly those without documentation, by providing food gift cards and vouchers to Price Chopper (the only store in Berkshire County that accepts their vouchers), as well as assisting families in the shelter. Will purchase, prepare and serve 3 meals a day.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 56 individuals (adult and children victims of domestic violence) with emergency food and gift cards and vouchers • Assistance has helped them keep their shelter operating 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We have been able to help survivors over the small bumps immediately with basic need assistance, including food assistance. We continue working with survivors on plans for longer term safety and stability.” • “We have seen cases in which people had been badly beaten, or beaten and raped, and they would not go to the hospital for fear of catching the virus. We are seeing cases of extreme violence, with survivors waiting until it is no longer bearable and they were afraid for their lives before reaching out for help because they were sheltering in place and feared the world outside.” • This past month, “Rachael” called our hotline as she was hiding in a basement with her two young children. With the help of local police, we brought her to our shelter. She had tried to escape previously. Her family had tried to intervene on her behalf. While her abuser is known to be very dangerous with gang connections, he wooed her on prior occasions and she returned- afraid, but also wanting her children to have a father. The evening she called, she knew she had to leave or die. Rachael is lucky to have a supportive family....She now has a domestic violence counselor to work through the dynamics and trauma of violence and dream of a new life. Our shelter case manager works with her on accessing benefits such as WIC and child care, and has begun discussions about finding a real home. Rachel is staying in our quarantine section with her children because of her heightened risk of COVID-19 exposure from her job. Our child advocate works with her adorable children. We provide her meals and basic needs including diapers. We ensure her transport to work is secure. She feels safe and is working hard to reclaim her life, and build a bright future for her children.” 		

Grantee	Farmington River Regional School District	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$4,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To continue to provide food and staples to 40 families (which include 78 children and 52 seniors) in Otis and Sandisfield through the summer months.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided ~20 school families and over 30 Seniors with food and staples • Residents of both towns more aware of school's helpfulness in the community 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Socialization is a huge factor in having people feel wanted, recognized and it gives them self worth." • "We missed our students and families more than anyone could imagine and to see the excitement in their eyes upon arrival every week was so worth the time and effort put in for them." 		

Grantee	Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Berkshire County*	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1. Will be added to existing food pantry accounts to purchase food and pay for the shared maintenance fee on some donated food items. Will provide Berkshire County emergency food network distribution data, COVID-19 infection data, and related unemployment data to supplement information received directly from feeding site partners. Data sharing in areas of capacity constraints, closings or significant changes due to volume increase/decrease.</p> <p>2. To support affiliated food pantries in Berkshire County. (Made possible by funding from Berkshire Health Systems.)*</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD 		
Other Highlight(s)			

Grantee	Goodwill Industries of the Berkshires & Southern Vermont	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$7,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	1)Partnering with the Food Bank of Western Mass to deliver food products to five locations in North County. Funds will support transportation costs. 2)To support transportation costs through July and August.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	1) 4,760 individuals served by 5 food pantries, a soup kitchen, and the homeless shelter in North County were provided food that Goodwill picked up and delivered from Mass Food Bank 2) Served an additional 1,850 individuals with 38,197 lbs. of food delivered; added 47 new households; site locations were able to order more than double the food supplies as usual due to transportation solutions; no families were left behind because of not having enough food being delivered.		
Other Highlight(s)	“It allows us to give food to people like one woman, who recently said: ‘I hate coming here, but I lost my job and my stimulus check has not come yet. So here I am. We greatly appreciate this help from Goodwill.’”		

Grantee	Great Barrington Farmer's Market	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low Income	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To continue the Market Match Program, which provides a dollar for dollar match on SNAP, WIC and senior farmers market check purchases.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 212 low-income households with dollar for dollar Market Matches, allowing better access to fresh and healthy foods • Supported local small businesses and farmers 		
Other Highlight(s)	"We have been able to serve new families who have not participated in the past. Both new and past participants are able to stretch their food budget and focus on buying fresh fruits and vegetables."		

Grantee	Greenagers	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To support food access for income eligible families by installing garden beds in the community and to increase the capacity of April Hill Conservation and Education Center to alleviate food insecurity and boost food sovereignty.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 low-income families served (including 16 in partnership with Multicultural BRIDGE) • 45 raised garden beds installed across the County for families directly, and churches and schools • Families report increased sense of independence and self-reliance, having a safe, inviting space for them to gather and work together • 200 pounds of vegetable produce harvested and distributed • 4 jobs created for young adults 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We learned that the issues of food insecurity run deeply within our community and require a diverse, community response to the issue. This response must continue past the COVID crisis and the energy level that we have attained should be maintained because these issues will not go away as the pandemic subsides.” • “We installed a garden for one family with 12 children, 4 of whom were adopted from the Hopi nation. They expressed deep gratitude for the added resource of a family garden.” 		

Grantee	Hinsdale Food Pantry	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$2,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low Income	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To continue to operate a temporary, mobile food pantry in the parking lot of the Hinsdale Trading Company Thursdays 10-11 am. Each week, the mobile pantry distributes food to 60-70 families from Hinsdale, Peru and Washington.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bags of food—including purchased meat and complete meal items--delivered to 114 low-income, food insecure individuals per week • Accommodated a 25% increase in the number of clients than before the pandemic 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Hinsdale Food Pantry had been closed since the spring of 2019. The Board of Directors of the Food Pantry could not find a location in which to house the pantry and as a whole the town did not offer much support for the pantry. Since we started operating a mobile pantry on April 9, 2020 in the parking lot of Hinsdale Trading Company as a response to the increase in food insecurity as a result of COVID-19, the support from individuals and local organizations has been amazing. Every week local people donate food items and money to the Food Pantry. Local churches and other organizations donate cases of food and money. People who live out of town, but feel a connection to Hinsdale also send in monetary donations. The community of Hinsdale and the neighboring towns of Peru and Washington have benefited as a whole by the work of the Hinsdale Food Pantry. Each week, the Food Pantry is able to distribute bags of food to over a hundred local people in need. The community also has the opportunity to work together to help each other in this time of local, national, and world crisis. Since we have started the mobile food pantry in Hinsdale the support of the community both as volunteers and donors has been overwhelming. With the additional funds provided from the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, the pantry has been able to help provide for the nutritional needs of the people of Hinsdale, Peru, and Washington. Just as importantly, we have cared and supported our neighbors in need and have experienced the gift of community.”</p>		

Grantee	It Takes a Village	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$6,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To operate the Village Closet for contactless pickup and delivery, which includes gathering items from multiple storage locations, mileage reimbursement for volunteers making deliveries and purchasing a variety of infant formula, bulk packets of wipes and diapers in the most needed sizes. Also provide PPE for staff and volunteers and for the assembly and distribution of 100 additional Resource Packs, which include safety supplies and information about other local service agencies. This organization provides free postpartum and early parenting support and resources.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 152 low-income families (480 individuals) with \$10,252 in free baby supplies • Implemented an online form for families to request the newborn supplies they needed 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“While some survival centers and food pantries set up contact-less pickup, It Takes a Village was one of the few agencies providing [delivering] diapers and newborn supplies.”</p> <p>“In May, It Takes a Village received a call from Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield. A nurse in the Labor and Delivery unit had heard about the Village Closet, and was wondering if we had any specialized car seats for premature babies. Some babies are too small for regular infant car seats, and need a special flat car bed in order to be discharged. Small community hospitals like Franklin Medical Center do not often have an inventory of these car beds, and they are not sold at regular stores like Walmart or Target, so parents have to pay out-of-pocket for one from a medical supplier. Luckily, the Village Closet has several of these car beds to lend to families. A Village Closet staff member, Sierra, arranged to bring the bed, along with some preemie diapers and clothing, to the hospital. When she arrived, she met the baby’s grandmother in the parking lot in front of the hospital. After speaking for a few minutes, Sierra learned that because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the baby’s mother had given birth without any of her family around, and had not been able to have any visitors, including her older child. Even after a nurse came out and brought the car seat and diapers inside, Sierra stayed and supported the baby’s grandmother. While she knew that the COVID-19 precautions were essential for keeping everyone safe and healthy, the emotional toll they were taking on the family was immense. Fortunately, when this nurse called It Takes a Village, the family received much more than a car bed and some diapers. They received compassion, one-on-one support from a fellow parent, and an immediate connection to a community that would continue to support them after they and their baby went home.”</p>		

Grantee	Manos Unidas	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$15,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To partner with Shirley Edgerton, of Next Generation Global Ministries, and Berkshire Mutual Aid Network to expand the “We’re All in this Together” meal deliveries to include a Wednesday delivery for the Latino and undocumented Latino community. This grant was made possible in part by a generous contribution from the Latino Legacy Fund at The Boston Foundation.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivered meals to ~3000 people in the Latinx community, many of whom have been most affected by COVID Provided mutual aid stipends to 12 families (total of \$3750) 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “One Colombian mom said she breathes relief every Wednesday knowing that at least that day she knows she will feed her kids.” “Wednesdays and Saturdays have become times in the week where our whole team pulls together and many express how much they look forward to these moments of solidarity and positive socialization in isolating times.” “We are not undone by the virus. Indeed, many have been energized and changed forever in positive ways by it, in ways that can change the structure of the way our community works.” “One Colombian woman member was served by both the Saturday as well as the Wednesday food deliveries, and was so moved by the support Manos has brought to her that she has become a devoted volunteer for our Wed meal deliveries. The thing that makes this story special is that the woman has cancer and is going through chemotherapy but refuses to miss a week so far of the meal delivery. She helps our team package the meals. As she is elderly, she says that she has very few opportunities for safe socialization during COVID times, and that we are that for her. When she first showed up to help out, we learned that she had lost her health insurance with her job, so we connected her in with Vim so that she could continue to get health supports during a most dire time for her. She is one of many who we have helped connect with food, health, and community support resources as well as fill out census paperwork, among other crucial connection points.” 		

Grantee	Multicultural BRIDGE	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To continue to provide services and supplies to the 20+ BRIDGE families, but also increase capacity to support/serve any family that has fallen through the cracks with referrals, services, supplies and food.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Served 75 low-income families, including 247 individuals; 90% of the families are black and brown Free “New Pathways Talks” launched: web series of over 20 video talks and webinars intended to seed an equitable and resilient future based on justice, healing, and transformation. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 core families connected 50 other families in need and received food, resources and support, many of which would have fallen through the cracks (due to being isolated in rural areas, immigration status, and less connected or less trusting of existing systems). BRIDGE has continued to connect with and support people with intersecting identities, specifically Black elders and families, immigrants, youth, folks with health issues and/or recovering from COVID-19. Families within a number of communities that have been disconnected or are distrusting of existing systems felt safe to communicate their needs to BRIDGE staff through distribution and outreach. “Many families were confused about how to get assistance through the school departments and many needed technical support and information on how to conduct learning online.” “Some families did not have computers or equipment to enable their children to connect with at home schooling nor did they have the fluency in English to advocate for their children’s needs. BRIDGE is providing continued support to these families and offering tutoring through BRIDGE’s network of volunteers.” 		

Grantee	North Adams Farmers Market	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire/ North Adams
Grant Purpose(s)	To match funds for EBT/SNAP users of a pre-order style mobile market and to also purchase safety equipment (gloves, masks, sanitizer, delivery bags) to be used by the volunteers.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matched EBT funds for 30 households, out of 100 households served • 85 EBT orders since April 12, totaling \$4,032 of EBT + Market Match (\$30/week) • Processing 100-150 orders a week • New partnerships with Berkshire Food Project and Berkshire Helping Hands have accelerated referrals for EBT matching 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“We realize not only the need for food access in the community, but also the need for even the most basic interaction. Everyone is so appreciative that this service exists, but they also just like to see a familiar face each week, even if it’s just from the window of their home, or behind a mask at our weekly pick-ups.”</p>		

Grantee	North Adams Friendship Center (Al Nelson Friendship Center Food Pantry)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$15,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire/ North Adams
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase food from the Western Massachusetts Food Bank and increase food supply, as well as for any additional operating costs associated with moving to a larger facility.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided pre-packaged boxes of food to 1,046 individuals living in 394 low-income households—a 77% increase over a year ago • One quarter of clients who are without transportation received food delivered by volunteers 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured a larger facility (St. Elizabeth's Parish Center) and more volunteers in coordination with the Northern Berkshire COVID-19 Response Team • "The woman that runs the daycare my two nephews grew up in, had to come to the pantry. It was the first time in her life she had to ask for help. I know she was sad and embarrassed to be there and I thought she may not come again. But she was treated with much respect and encouragement, as a friend not a client, and we did see her again." 		

Grantee	Northern Berkshire Community Coalition	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families/Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	Weekend Meal Project: 1) To coordinate up to 150 meals delivered each weekend for 5 weekends in partnership with local organizations and local restaurants who are willing to participate by making meals and delivering to those in need. 2) To additionally serve weekend meals through the end of May to residents who are unable to leave their home or have no accessible transportation options to get to the meal sites.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated an average of 221 meals per weekend for seniors in 63 low-income households (including 106 adults and 4 children) for 11 weekends Delivered 328 extra meals Memorial Day weekend Delivered a total of 2,279 meals 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Many of our restaurants have wanted to find ways to support the community and we have provided a pathway for them to maintain business while doing something good." "For those seniors that are living alone and unable to leave their homes, we have heard positive feedback about the delivery drivers checking on them when food is delivered and providing a positive social interaction, even if it is only once a week." "The triage process has also worked well. We are able to help individuals identify what resources they have, sometimes helping to elevate anxieties, and helping identify more sustainable options for food access." "[A] delivery driver has really enjoyed doing the deliveries and has taken the extra step to take some time with the individuals she is delivering to, to check-in, say hello, ask how they are doing. We know we have many seniors living alone in our region and to have someone, while doing their job, take that extra step and show a stranger that someone cares about them during this time, there is no way to measure the positive impact that this is having on the individual or our community as a whole." 		

Grantee	Our Lady of Charity (St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	As a 100% volunteer organization, this grant will help them assist those lost in the gaps of service. The strongest demand is homeless prevention, but volunteers are also responding to calls for help 5 days a week and the parish has offered to host the North Adams Friendship Center food pantry and space for a remote teaching program for a group of Drury High School teachers.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided food, masks, and internet access for 187 individuals in 53 families. • Successful collaborations with food pantry, schools, the city and NBCC 		
Other Highlight(s)	“A woman lost her husband to COVID-19. They lived above a store that had been forced to close by state regulation. Left alone and without income or emergency assistance (the electrical account was commercial and not eligible for forbearance), she contacted our conference phone worker. She lived in a remote area with no dependable transportation, making access to services like food pantries difficult. We were able to help with her occupancy and food security issues.”		

Grantee	People's Pantry	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$1,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide needed support to execute a more efficient process and sign-in procedure due to an increase in demand.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired food distribution manager for 10 hrs./wk. • Reduced burden on volunteers • Indirectly contributed to food for 1800 individuals in 350 families 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "An employee has taken the strain off the all-volunteer system which had to change radically overnight to meet the tripling of our client group and the loss of our usual food sources. All of our food is distributed outdoors which requires many hours of organization and planning. We are using three times as many volunteers each week who need training and supervising." • "We now provide 3 extra large grocery bags of nutritious food each week to families with no income." • "Our average family size has more than doubled from 1.2 to 2.9." 		

Grantee	Pittsfield Public Schools	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In coordination with school bus operations, provided 17,291 lunches and 17,188 breakfasts (34,479 meals) for children from lower-income households (an average of 480 lunches and 477 breakfasts per day). Meals were provided seven days a week. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to summer feeding program experience, were able to coordinate and provide meals the first Monday school was cancelled • The number of meals increased each week: The first week of operation we provided 1,842 lunches and 1,739 breakfasts for seven days; the week of April 13th we provided 4,204 lunches and 4,204 lunches for seven days. 		

Grantee	Richmond Consolidated Schools	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	The number of meals per day is currently 80-100. As the school district anticipates the number will grow, funds will help improve access to food for children and the elderly in Richmond and West Stockbridge.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kitchen served approximately 110 lunches per day, Monday- Friday (~2200 meals total) • Every child and adult who needed lunch received one 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned that food insecurity is a real issue for Richmond • One client said, "Thank you so much for all the yummy food you have been providing. It has been so helpful to not have to worry about cooking for the boys when I have to head to work each day." 		

Grantee	ROOTS Northern Berkshire Teen Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	North Adams
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide personal hygiene products, snacks and meals to youth in the community. WRAPS Program at Williams College, which provided a freezer and weekly meals, has terminated this service for the duration of the semester.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided food, games, art supplies, gift certificates and personal items to 22 young individuals 		
Other Highlight(s)	"Many of the youth we have worked with are struggling to finish school for the year online and are just trying to get through this period."		

Grantee	Roots Rising	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) 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.</p> <p>2) To streamline their systems and expand capacity to be able to serve as many community members as possible. Since opening the virtual farmer's market, they have served over 750 households and are currently supporting 15 farmers and food producers, with more vendors to be included. (see 5/7 report)</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 1,732 home deliveries of fresh and healthy, locally-grown food worth \$21,040 • Affordable food made available to 130 low-income households • 752 of the deliveries discounted through a financial assistance program; SNAP recipients received \$30 discount; free delivery. • Supported 20 farmers and food producers through online store, generating a countywide audience and \$61,463 in revenue for them • Shoppers and volunteers kept safe from COVID risks through porch deliveries 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "In this time of social distancing, we have seen the community come together in the most creative and compassionate ways. For instance, when space became a limiting factor for our market's growth, Barrington Stage Company offered the free use of their 5,000 square foot production center. When manpower was a limiting factor to our market's operation, we had 67 community members sign up to volunteer. We have learned that our community cares deeply and that we are stronger when we come together." • "The financial assistance that you're providing has been essential for me as a single mom working on one income. It has allowed me to have access to items that I normally wouldn't be able to indulge in- such as the raspberry bushes and the strawberry plants. My kids and I get to start a small garden in our backyard so that we can bond and connect with each other in a fun activity. I look forward to my Saturdays! Thank you all for being amazing!" 		

Grantee	Salvation Army	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$12,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase food products, beverages and packaging to be able to prepackage individual bagged lunches for distribution through their feeding program and food pantry.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 72,000 meals served to 6,071 people through food box distribution and served meals 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“The Salvation Army’s Massachusetts Emergency Disaster Team has been training and preparing for an event such as this for several years. Working with all the Corps across Massachusetts, their preparedness along with their daily briefings with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency helped the staff and volunteers to know what was expected of them and they performed above and beyond the call of duty. Because of our level of coordination, we now have also been asked to serve the city-run quarantine hotel for the homeless, along with its nurses and safety personnel.”</p>		

Grantee	South Congregational Church - Community Food Pantry	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub- Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	To increase the amount of food ordered from the food bank each week and to be able to buy food from other sources to feed no less than 550 low-income families a week. Would also buy masks, gloves and hand sanitizer.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140 home deliveries per week (up from 50 pre-COVID) • Converted to a drive-through pantry that serves 550 families per week • Provided 1644 “grab and go” meals to 1474 individuals 		
Other Highlight(s)	Drive-through pantry may become a model for a community “Thanksgiving Angles” food pantry in 2020.		

Grantee	Southern Berkshire Regional School District	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase produce and milk from local farmers for families with children under age 21.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided bags of fresh produce for 150 low-income individuals (Undermountain Elementary students and their families) 		
Other Highlight(s)	One client wrote, "My friend has been picking up for my son as I'm disabled. Every single thing you've given has been so gratefully appreciated and eaten."		

Grantee	Town of Williamstown/Farmers Market	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$7,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	Through a new initiative, Williamstown Farmers Market – Essentials!, will safely provide fresh food access to Williamstown and Northern Berkshire community while supporting local farmers through e-commerce, modern technologies and cooperative efforts.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided fresh and health food for 380 families, with seniors being in the majority • Supported 16 local farms and businesses with \$20K revenue through web store • Customers, volunteers and staff stay safe and healthy through pick-up operations 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Our farmers depend on our market to support their families and provide jobs to employees just as the public depends on the market to connect them to local farms and businesses.” • “There is an outpouring of gratitude and support from customers when they pick up their order and we have noticed how pleased they are to see their favorite farmers, friends, and neighbors.” • “One farmer informed us that he had nearly given up on the growing season that year, with the bulk of his customers (restaurants, catering companies, etc) halting their operations and purchasing. He hadn’t begun planting in his greenhouses and planned to let his fields run fallow for the summer. When we asked if he would participate, he told us he would go out to his field that very day and begin planting radishes, spinach, and other early greens so he would have produce to offer for sale this season. Now on week 5 of our market, he has available spinach, radishes, rhubarb, and more, using his land and agricultural expertise to the benefit of our community.” 		

Grantee	Town of Windsor	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$12,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To prepare and distribute meals twice weekly – on Monday, a hot meal to be delivered or picked up at noon and on Thursday, frozen family meals to be delivered or distributed. Families will be identified by the Council on the Aging outreach coordinator, CBRSD, Windsor Board of Health agent and requests from residents. Anticipate 75 each day.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided meals for 65 individuals, twice per week • 520 total meals distributed 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize a Council on Aging outreach worker to identify residents in need. “Her relationship building prior to and during this program have been instrumental in ensuring confidentiality of residents who would otherwise never ask.” • “We have come together, regardless of political views, age, race, religion, or income, to take care of each other. We have come together, with mutual trust and without judgment, to ensure the needs of the community are met. During a period of social distancing and too many divides, we have safely provided meals, met new people, gotten to know neighbors, fostered a sense of gratitude, and our community has grown and strengthened because of it.” 		

Grantee	Western Mass Labor Action	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$2,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To support emergency food and supply distribution to food-insecure residents primarily through non-contact deliveries; phone advocacy to assist those who have lost jobs, income, health care access; and a membership “phone tree” as a lifeline reaching vulnerable families and seniors in need of food and other services.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 1350 low-income people, who would have gone without due to job and/or income loss, with fresh and healthy food, hygiene and cleaning supplies • Kept emergency food closet stocked, which accommodated as many as 23 emergency food requests in a single day • Provided an average of four cases per week of advocacy by phone for those who have lost their jobs, income or faced other problems • Phone trees reached individuals and families who needed food, supplies, assistance with advocacy to obtain unemployment, stimulus checks and other services, including connecting with public and/or private social service agencies. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “WMLA is 100% volunteer, and operates off of a principle of mutual assistance, so we invited benefit program recipients to participate as volunteers with the benefit program (to the extent that they were able) to bolster our ability to help the next person, and the next after that, and so on during this time of tremendous hardship and need.” • “We found that the phone tree will be an indispensable tool for all of our work going forward.” • “She is a woman in her fifties who came in for help with food because she had lost hours at the fast food restaurant where she works. She received aid from the organization by signing up for WMLA’s newly-expanded produce distributions. With her situation somewhat stabilized, and seeing how many others shared her struggles, she wanted to help the organization help others. She became WMLA’s Volunteers Coordinator, learning to enlist and train other volunteers to help with food collections, deliveries, contacting those in need, etc., to help WMLA meet the increased need emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic.... She is a great example of how those struggling with harsh economic conditions, who know firsthand what it is like to struggle, can take on important leadership roles in this community.” 		

Grantee	Williamstown Food Pantry	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$12,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided groceries and emergency assistance to 216 households, 38 of which are new • Served 694 individuals, 122 of whom are seniors • Homebound seniors receive deliveries of food • Many partnerships with community agencies contribute supplies and drive demand 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...We are able to check in with individuals to find out if they are experiencing any specific needs. This may be as simple as asking for personal care products or asking for help with prescriptions, rent, or other expenses." • "One of our seniors just lost a spouse who had been in a local nursing home due to incredibly complicated health issues and dementia. Not being able to visit the spouse for a very long time and having recently had cancer surgery, things have been emotionally and financially challenging. These kinds of stories exist even without the burden of COVID-19 on our minds. Delivering food to this individual gave her a chance to process what happened and speak to people about her husband and her feelings. Without normal funerals, people do not have the traditional opportunities to grieve and receive support from family, friends and neighbors." • "We cannot thank all of you enough for the generous grant to the Williamstown Food Pantry. It got us started and helped to restock the meager shelves we had at the start of the pandemic. We are moving forward with confidence that the Food Pantry is closer to being financially stable because of this grant and the generosity of this community. While we are far from through this battle, we know that we are prepared for several weeks ahead." 		

Grantee	Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide a hot and nutritious meal one time per week to families residing in public housing, West and Morningside communities and to a known area populated by some that do not have a stable home. For some of the youth who have temporarily lost employment, impacting the family's income and ability to address basic needs, will offer a \$50 stipend.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative community groups delivered over 800 balanced, hot meals to families residing in public housing and the Westside and Morningside communities • Deepened partnership with Manos Unidas allowed greater reach to the Latina community 		
Other Highlight(s)	A week ago I received a call from an individual associated with a community organization. She told me of a person with a physical disability, medical issues and possible COVID-19 who was embarrassed to call for dinner. I called the person and we discussed her feelings. She agreed to accept a meal and sent this note to the Pastor of New Generation Global Ministry: 'Thank you so much for the supper and please tell Shirley and the whole church that is doing this for us, but no one do for shut ins, it's very nice to have people show their love and then the meal was very good also please share my thanks.,'		

Grantee	Zion Memorial Church (Price Memorial AME Zion Church)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To support nearly four months of food and personal care distribution, as well as a new meat slicer, for the "Feed Thy Neighbor" outreach ministry, which meets the needs of the homeless, under-resourced adults, children and veterans.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 1,378 low-income individuals with meals and staples, many of whom are without transportation, access to nutritious food 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>"Many of our elderly have expressed their gratitude for the meals provided. They have stated that their food resources are low and they have difficulty obtaining enough food to get through each month. Programs like ours and other food pantries are their main sources of food supply."</p>		

Health and Mental Services

Grantee	Berkshire County Arc	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People with disabilities	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff receiving PPE were able to continue to serve 170 individuals with developmental disabilities or brain injuries in residential group homes, some quarantined due to COVID-19 • All of the staff stayed COVID-19 negative • All of the nine residents recovered and tested negative. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We put our gloves and gowns on, we strapped a mask around our faces, washed our hands until they’re dry as a bone and took care of our friends.” • We have had about nine or so individuals test positive to date, and all of them have been protected, taken care of, and tested negative by the work of our staff. One home had three test positive in a group home of eight: After three-plus weeks, the home was rendered off quarantine, which included 9 staff members and all the other residents. 		

Grantee	Berkshire Health Systems – Berkshire Medical Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	COVID-19 patients	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To address gaps with patients being discharged from the hospital that need basic quality of life necessities. Will support highly vulnerable individuals with nutrient dense meal enhancements and items that support basic needs in the first week post-discharge. Each reusable necessity bag will be modified to meet the individual's needs and will contain items such as: emergency first 24-hour supply of nonperishable food products, gift card for groceries, medicine box, hygiene and weather-related items, feminine products for females, COVID-19 fact sheet and updated community resource list.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 59 care packages to patients identified by the health system to be at high risk especially after discharge from the ED/Hospital and highly vulnerable (e.g., homeless, elderly, uninsured and / or undocumented individual) • Increased referrals for services • Collaboration between the hospital and community • High patient satisfaction • Overcame logistical supply challenges 		
Other Highlight(s)	A patient with many health problems and who is quadriplegic stated “you don’t know how much this will help me. I’m always glad that you guys check on me when I’m in the hospital.”		

Grantee	Berkshire Hills Regional School District	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$6,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase 600 cloth face masks that will be made by one of the teachers who runs a baby clothing business and given to each family in the school district (1310 students)		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed 600 masks to predominantly low-income families. • Partnered with a local business and used existing meals program for distribution. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“On the surface a face mask is a small thing. In practice it affords some security in an increasingly uncertain world. Since we wrote our grant, the Governor has mandated that masks be worn in public. Several recipients spoke of how they appreciated additional protection for shopping and other essential activities.”</p>		

Grantee	Berkshire Horse Works	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To support the Healers and Horses program, which provides a safe platform where healthcare workers can identify, explore and process feelings associated with their work, and address trauma, offer emotional support and an outlet for expression and provide positive coping skills during the crisis.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 38 frontline workers scheduled for service in August 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Due to challenges around scheduling groups, workshops have yet to occur and funds have yet to be used. Those who’ve committed to the program have provided positive feedback in anticipation of the experience, glad to hear that the workshop is being offered.” • August 13 update: “Participants in the program include 10 doctors from Volunteers in Medicine, who kicked off the program in July with a single half-day workshop. Comprising other upcoming workshops are BHS staff with their families, the North Adams Emergency Department, Macony Pediatrics, and the Berkshire Health Systems HR department. With these groups we anticipate reaching a total of 35 healthcare professionals and their families. At present, the “Healers and Horses” program is at capacity.” 		

Grantee	Berkshire Nursing Families	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$3,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	New mothers and newborns	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided infant weight checks and breast milk transfer assessment curbside for 58 individuals in 20 families with new mothers and newborns using the two purchased Medela Baby Weigh scales • Data transferred to pediatricians allowed for better care • Reduced COVID-19 exposure for clients and staff 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced family stress at the time of the pandemic by giving them accurate assessment information • Continue to incorporate virtual consults as part of the practice • Note from a pediatrician: "I can guarantee that for at least a few of them if BNF hadn't been there nursing would have not been successful. Coordinating the weights of babies has also allowed less visits to the office where there might be potential germs. Often the only vital I need is a weight. Being notified of weights done by BNF often lets me do visits via telehealth." 		

Grantee	BFAIR (Berkshire Family and Individual Resources)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People with disabilities	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide PPE to staff and adults with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries residing in BFAIR homes or living independently with staff supports.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPE utilized by agency direct support professionals and middle management staff working in group residences and community outreach programs for people with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries. • Approximately 225 clients and staff were protected and averted COVID-19. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with other service providers and trade associations to order in bulk and mete out supplies, at a time that ordering was competitive and challenging • Met the health requirements of funder, Department of Developmental Services (DDS) • “COVID-19 provided, and continues to do so beyond any doubt the dedication, resiliency and commitment of our staff to work with and support people in need and reliant on others despite the fact that their personal lives could be negatively affected health-wise as an Essential Worker.” • “An individual BFAIR provides residential services for was ordered hospitalized by his PCP due to symptomology. Once hospitalized, the individual tested positive and while most others would not have been discharged, due to hospital’s staff unlikely ability to successfully treat for COVID given his secondary clinical needs, a BFAIR staff volunteered to work twenty four hours a day for five consecutive days in a temporary setting approved by DPH and DDS isolated from his housemates to help eliminate further contact with others. The resident successfully recovered and the staff was recognized for her commitment and courage under the circumstances.” 		

Grantee	Brien Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People living with mental illness	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) To purchase more laptops, cell phones, annual service fees for teletherapy, video conferencing fees for remote staff supervision, medical supplies (PPE, thermometers) and cleaning supplies.</p> <p>2) To expand the breadth, capacity and efficiency of telehealth capabilities to meet growing needs, by creating a portal and adding computers for remote work.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of counseling sessions and outpatient clinic coordination, which kept clients stable during crisis • 30 minute “remote” therapy sessions increased by 287% from May 2019 to May 2020 • Support groups conducted virtually (including crisis stabilization meetings, substance abuse education programs, day treatment sessions, and support sessions for our teens.) • Telehealth program successfully expanded to nine residential treatment facilities, and clients getting the therapy they need • Exposure to COVID-19 reduced for clients and staff • Served approximately 5,600 clients and staff 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for services has increased during the pandemic • “We have made the decision, because of this increased effectiveness, and greatly expanded capacity, to include Telehealth as a permanent option as part of the therapeutic process on a longer-term basis.” • “An individual (new client) with a history of diagnosed major depressive disorder, accompanied by a lack of personal relationships and Isolation, was working at a local manufacturing firm. He lost his job as a function of COVID-19. This job loss significantly increased his depression and isolation, and he reached out to the Brien Center for telehealth services. Thanks to your funding, mostly used to purchase new laptops for our clinicians and also cell phones, this individual was able to benefit from regular therapeutic appointments, and responded well to telehealth via Zoom that we were able to provide due to our expanded technological capabilities. In addition to psychotherapy, he received a medication evaluation through our one of our psychiatrists and was prescribed an anti-depressant. This therapy significantly decreased his depression and feelings of isolation. As a result, he was motivated to get out of bed (something that was very difficult for him prior to therapy), he set goals and began getting his life back together. The individual has applied for unemployment, and is currently actively seeking a new position.” 		

Grantee	Central Berkshire Command Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase difficult to locate personal protective equipment in anticipation of the surge for Central Berkshire towns.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frontline organizations (e.g., physicians' offices, municipal entities, non-profit organizations, homeless and womens service shelters, funeral homes, ambulance companies) received PPE through approximately 36 orders • First responder organizations in 12 Central Berkshire County communities received pass-through PPE from Commonwealth 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Most of what we learned concerned how under-prepared many organizations and agencies were for a large-scale public health emergency. While we've spent considerable time and effort preparing for emergency management responses following a natural disaster or weather related emergency, similar plans were not in place for a public health or pandemic emergency. We need to do a better job of preparing supply caches and lines of communication." • "All of the organizations that were supported by this center were affected by the work we are accomplishing on a day to day, minute to minute basis by providing much needed and hard to find Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)." 		

Grantee	City of North Adams - North County Emergency Planning Commission	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub- Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To allow the Emergency Operations Center to continue to operate, including signage for the center, media live feeds out to the public, installation of a phone system for the hotline and for internet, moving of furniture and setting up offices, contracts with phone conferencing, and food and refreshments to minimize potential exposure to staff.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations continued to support nearly 20 emergency service agencies, including police, fire and EMS. • 1 500 families supported through food delivery, support for food pantries and restarting the North Adams Mobile Food bank; supported homeless, elderly, children, immunocompromised individuals, and those impacted by a positive diagnosis of COVID-19 and quarantined; provided direction for emotional, financial, health and childcare needs • Government officials and municipalities advised on best practices during COVID-19. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“Early on in this process and while setting up our regional command center we received a call from a gentleman wanting to see his wife of 60 years who is in the nursing home. He called the helpline and spoke with Mike Cozzaglio who was able to speak with the gentleman had to explain the reasoning of the separation and social distancing. Now I ask you to consider a couple being married 60 years and then tell them they can’t be together. Chief Meranti who was in the room and me in the other were nearly in tears as Mr. Cozzaglio was extraordinary in his calm, empathetic communication with this individual. They completed the call, there was a silence and then we all realized that those to individuals would rather both get COVID and die together rather than to spend one day apart.”</p>		

Grantee	Community Bible Church	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$6,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase personal care and cleaning products for clients and a supply of hand sanitizer, gloves and masks for the volunteers who work at the food pantry.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided \$10 and \$20 gift cards to 141 families 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“In the area of safety, the one issue we have in maintaining social distancing occurs when people need help in getting their food to their vehicle as many are elderly or using a cane. We would like to use part of the money which we designated for supplies like hand sanitizer and face shield for two push carts to assist people in getting their groceries to their car.”</p>		

Grantee	Community Health Programs	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low income	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) To purchase critically needed supplies and materials, as well as help bridge gaps in service due to significant shifting of resources. CHP is actively treating patients while trying to keep patients and healthcare workers safe.</p> <p>2) To support repurposing the Mobile Health Units for well-baby visits and to provide free and emergency food to high-risk populations.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<p><u>Bridging Gaps in Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 6,596 individual patients with medical and dental services as well as nutrition and family support programming in keeping doors open and maintaining services • Family Services increased number of clients served <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ In coordination with community partners, distributed 2,816 food bags. ◦ 415 individuals in WIC nutrition support program ◦ Play programming and ParentChild + Home Visiting education switched to digital ◦ Provided case management services to 50 clients and enrolled 10 new participants in nutrition club • Clients and staff limited to exposure risks <p><u>Mobile Health Units</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 300 patients with routine and preventive care, immunizations, supplies (including diapers, formula, gift cards, and food bags), and nutritional and social supports; these families have safe access to critically needed supports without risking exposure to COVID-19 • Reached isolated populations in rural areas • Satisfied MHU clients • Increased collaboration and learning between family support staff and medical providers around identifying social determinants of health 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Two weeks ago, one of CHP’s Mobile Health Units was travelling from a food distribution at a local community school in Pittsfield (Morningside) to a Health Center in Great Barrington. On the trip, CHP staff came into contact with a gentleman holding a sign asking for help. Seeing this man, the MHU team pulled over, gave him a bag of food and stopped to speak with him and hear his story. They learned that his wife is pregnant, that they had no income because he lost his job due to COVID-19, and that they were homeless. After this encounter, MHU staff worked with CHP Family Services to see if or how support could be provided to this family. Through a coordinated effort, CHP was able to help the man and his pregnant wife find lodging in a hotel for shelter, have access to free and emergency food, get signed up for WIC services, and get scheduled for a 		

telehealth medical visit. Were it not for funding like this Emergency Response Fund, the MHU team would not have been able to give this family the support they so desperately needed.”

- “MHU staff have been working with a dad who has faced incredibly challenging times. His wife passed away unexpectedly before the newborn baby was 1 week old. The dad was bringing the baby to Pediatrics for an appointment, and called ahead asking for formula, which he was unexpectedly and critically in need of on a Sunday afternoon. One of the Medical Assistants at the practice called Family Services staff seeking assistance. By happenstance, the MHU coordinator was teaching another staff member how to drive the van, and they were near the practice at that moment. They were able to deliver formula to the practice, and get it to the dad and baby. Following that encounter, the dad has visited the van for additional appointments and supports, receiving medical care and much needed nutritional supports like food and formula through vouchers and direct offerings. This young family, through coordinated staff efforts and access to MHU resources, has been supported in ways that would not have been possible in a traditional medical setting.”

Grantee	ECU-Health Care	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$1,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	COVID-19 patients	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To secure items necessary to ensure a safe environment for staff and consumers as they reopen. This organization helps uninsured and underinsured North County residents access affordable health coverage.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to reopen office to maintain a safe working environment for staff processing applications and other activities, including authorization and verification • With residents lacking access to public computers and internet, services allowed uninsured and underinsured North County residents to apply (114 applications) 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>A couple who have both worked for the same company for over 30 years were informed that their company would be closing, and they would both be without health insurance at the end of June. Both individuals have had serious medical issues in the past and were very concerned about the loss of insurance as they could not afford COBRA coverage. One of our Navigators was able to obtain required authorization from the couple through a system that was put into place to deal with the COVID-19 situation and was then able to assist with them an online application. The couple was subsequently approved for a subsidized health insurance plan through the Massachusetts Health Connector. Our Navigator was able to preview the plans with the couple, discussed access to providers that were important to them and verified coverage of necessary medications. Our Navigator was further able to assist them with enrollment into their plan of choice and provided guidance on the payment process. The couple was extremely grateful for the time and effort that our Navigator took to explain the eligibility process, tax subsidies and plan benefits. They expressed that they felt so much better about what could have otherwise been a terrible situation.</p>		

Grantee	Fenn Street Berkshire Seamsters (Berkshire Sewing Team)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$6,000
Sub- Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To procure materials and sewing machines used for the production of face masks that meet CDC guidelines, which will be donated to essential workers as well as nonprofits for distribution.*		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 1200 purchased masks from local sewing groups to low-income individuals via a lunch program and several non profit organizations 		
Other Highlight(s)	“I learned that was more of a need than we expected. The mask making continues until this day.”		

Grantee	Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To support the RISE program, which has developed a 6-week series to include the full suite of RISE modules, to serve nonprofit staff, first responders and educators experiencing inordinate amounts of stress and uncertainty.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided the first of two four-week online RISE training programs for 75 scholarship recipients working on the nonprofit, police and health care frontlines to unpack workplace stressors and their impact on workers' well-being and promote stress resilience (student pre- and post-survey data available) • Second program will run Aug. 7-24, focused on Berkshire educators, and funding will underwrite 53 more scholarships 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>"Anecdotally, we are hearing positive feedback from the June training. The Berkshire Health Systems participants, for instance, are reportedly finding great benefit from the training. Of the 29 participants, six are non-medical personnel involved in patient, family and medical systems support, with the balance comprised of doctors, residents, and registered nurses. Though we firmly believe that the impact of the training is higher with live person-to-person contact, we learned that online programming may be a much more effective way to reach workers at institutions with 24/7 responsibilities. The BHS participants leaped at the chance to participate online, and greatly appreciated the flexibility afforded by the ability to catch up with previously recorded training sessions."</p>		

Grantee	Mass 2-1-1, Berkshire County	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low Income	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To help staff meet the high call volume due to inquiries about COVID-19 resources and assistance.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handled 85,000 calls and 112,892 requests for information and referrals from March 1 to June 30 		
Other Highlight(s)	Top requests were for 1) healthcare (COVID-19 related), 2) mental health and addictions (crisis intervention and suicide), and 3) housing and shelter (e.g., rent assistance).		

Grantee	Mount Carmel Care Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$2,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Lenox
Grant Purpose(s)	To purchase medical diagnostic equipment, specifically 5 pulse-oximeters used to evaluate the level of blood oxygen in those with respiratory symptoms. The equipment will address the immediate increased demand for services to the elderly admitted to this facility with respiratory symptoms who are aged and infirmed.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitored of 60+ elderly, frail and disabled seniors admitted for skilled nursing facility care from the Lenox / Pittsfield area and communicated changes in health condition to the physicians for additional interventions as needed • As of May 4, 2020, Mount Carmel Care Center has no active or suspected cases of COVID – 19. 		
Other Highlight(s)	Extensive re-training of clinical staff, environmental staff, and administrative staff and 24/7 monitoring in place.		

Grantee	Multicultural BRIDGE*	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	Will join food access coordinators and correlating agencies across the county to provide cultural competence, equity and inclusion, and systems change training to reach and support the most vulnerable populations in the most productive and least harmful ways.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • 		
Other Highlight(s)			

Grantee	NAMI Berkshire County	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$17,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People living with mental illness	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1) 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.</p> <p>2) To change platform/programs, which includes changes to technology, to model NAMI Mass, the state NAMI umbrella affiliate.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established “Warm Line” service to community, available 12 hours a day Assisted 50 “Warm Line” callers referred from other agencies seeking assistance with counseling, information and referrals Provide online family support group 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calls are predominantly from persons with self-identified mental health diagnoses that were struggling with isolation and stress due to the pandemic and lack of community support. “It is anticipated that mental health issues will grow over the next several months with an increase in PTSD symptoms. At the same time, the need for mental health care and support will increase. We are currently finding children being affected from the social isolation and lack of school routine among other things.” “Marianna is an older full time worker for a local hotel/spa who was laid off during Covid-19. She called because her children live across the United States and are “very busy”. She felt alone and isolated. Three-quarters of an hour was spent talking to her. Ideas were offered to occupy her time and distract her from the on-going news. Marianna’s primary language is Spanish although she is able to speak English as well. NAMI-BC Warm Line was able to connect her with a Spanish speaking volunteer and they continue to have weekly conversations. This week she called in need of a mask as she had not ventured out in public. The Warm Line volunteer was able to give her several options of where to get a free mask, and where to buy one for a nominal cost.” 		

Grantee	Northern Berkshire EMS (formerly North Adams Ambulance)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Seniors	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintained staffing levels to serve 25,000 residents in 10 towns in North County • Staff stayed up to date with vastly changing medical protocols and guidelines under COVID 		
Other Highlight(s)	Transport Division was able to deliver hundreds of meals for the North Adams Public School lunch program and local food pantries.		

Grantee	United Cerebral Palsy of Western MA	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People with disabilities	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1.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.</p> <p>2.For equipment needed to get their Durable Medical Equipment Program back up and running to help seniors and persons effected by COVID-19 transition out of long-term care, such as nursing homes, or the hospital.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided food, emergency cleaning supplies, medication, and trips to healthcare professionals for 85 families with children or adults with special needs • Durable medical equipment program put back on line and agency was able to maintain operations (which will help an average of 80 persons with disabilities live independently) • Protected clients and staff from exposure to COVID-19 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>"Lack of transportation becomes more problematic when you can't make it to the food pantry...The Family Support program has needed to play this personal shopping role for families who have no current way to access needed supplies."</p>		

Grantee	Volunteers in Medicine - Berkshires	Total Grant(s) Awarded	3 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.To increase medical staff capacity, reducing the gap normally filled by volunteer professionals, and to bolster organizing efforts around determinants of health, working closely with the school systems, People's Pantry, BCAC and others. 2.To increase patient care coordination staffing to increase capacity and build on their vital role in supporting patients around social determinants of health (needed resources in the community). 3.To support a comprehensive telehealth and telecommuting plan to address immediate needs and to carry VIM into the future. 		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<p><u>Clinical Support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 600 individuals, many of whom are uninsured or undocumented, with medical care • Volunteers and staff kept healthy and away from emergency rooms <p><u>Social Determinants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 160 individuals, many of whom are uninsured or undocumented, with patient care coordination around the social determinants of health • Increased collaborations with the local school systems, People's Pantry, FVH Operation Better Start/Southern Berkshire Rural Health Network, BCAC and others. • Referred approximately 160 individuals and families to available resources, including food, health insurance, utilities and housing. • Partnered with Construct and Race Brook Lodge to provide emergency housing, food and medical care for front-line healthcare workers, first responders, VIM patients and Construct residents who have been exposed to and/or have tested positive for COVID-19 and want to self-isolate to protect their families and loved ones. • Addressed patients' legal needs and negotiating on their behalf with landlords and others • Other agencies use the detailed script, users guide and resource database <p><u>Telehealth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 344 medical and behavioral health visits and 79 social determinants of health telehealth visits—an increase of close to 100. • Brought back volunteers who can work from home, and made staff more productive at home. • Brought patient medical visits up to near full capacity. • Joined with BHS to provide a platform for telehealth, ensuring consistency throughout the county. 		

Other
Highlight(s)

- One of our patients fell off a ladder and broke his wrist. Working with our orthopedic specialist, we evaluated the fracture and determined that the patient needed surgery. In fact, if he didn't get the surgery, he would lose full function of his arm and be unable to work. Normally, a patient who needs this kind of surgery would need to have it done in Boston. That was not an option in our current environment. VIM spoke with a local surgeon who normally doesn't see uninsured patients and got the surgeon to agree to perform the operation. We also secured coverage for hospitalization, and the surgery was a success. In fact, the patient has already begun physical therapy and is on the road to recovery and a return to employment.
- Recently, we triaged a married couple and determined both of them were sick with COVID-19. Not only were they unable to work because of their illness, but they were also unable to provide the level of care their ten- and eleven- year-old children while they were in bed and trying to maintain a safe distance. VIM spoke with the patients and determined their primary needs were 1) food for their children (they couldn't cook for them) and 2) schooling and activities for the children. VIM paid for a week of pre-cooked meals and delivered them to the patients' home. We also reached out to the children's school and organized the appropriate level of support until the children's parents were back on their feet.
- In a 2-3 day period after becoming aware of Construct's housing funding, VIM was able to complete financial assistance application funds for 30 patients and their families.
- "Telehealth will remain a critical piece of our sustainability strategy, and will also allow us to address some ongoing barriers related to transportation in the county. It is also an effective tool in preventing the spread of communicable diseases, since patients can "see" their providers without coming into a shared space."

Grantee	Western Mass Recovery Learning Community	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$16,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness/people living with mental illness	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide access to basic needs supports to at least 80 people directly impacted by psychiatric diagnosis, trauma, extreme stress, homelessness, addiction and other life-interrupting challenges.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 720 contacts with at least 100 people experiencing homelessness/living with mental illness • Able to remain open and available during the pandemic • Developed successful new internal systems for identifying client needs 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We have learned how fragile our infrastructure for community supports and resources can be in the face of a pandemic or similar crisis. So many of the critical resources available to support people in need simply weren’t available, or became much more difficult to access. Bureaucratic loops could feel insurmountable at times. For example, if one has lost their ID and needs to replace it, but doesn’t have a permanent address, or a social security card they can get caught in a seemingly endless loop of trying to prove their identity in order to acquire one of those items which are required to obtain each of the others, as well. This was surely compounded by an inability to simply walk into a public office and seek help from a state or city employee. It has taken our persistence, and historical knowledge of how to navigate these systems in order to overcome some of these barriers. We have also learned a great deal about – for example – signing up for insurance and other benefits during a period like this, as well.” • “A man recently (within the last week) just found our community. He has housing, but is at risk of losing it due to lack of employment and other relevant benefits. He also has very limited reading skills, and so had previously been overwhelmed by even beginning to read the paperwork required to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and similar. Another community member actually sat with him at our center and helped him apply. (Part of our model is to expressly encourage not just paid employees but all community members to share their knowledge, wisdom, and skills with one another.) Following that, he and other community and team members sat at the kitchen table and talked at length about how alone he has felt, how close he had come to losing his housing, and how grateful he was to find this community.” 		

Housing and Homeless Services

Grantee	Berkshire Bridges Working Cities	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$21,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 1549 individuals were connected to resources for housing, SNAP, unemployment, childcare, utility, medical supplies, RAFT etc. through community navigators and navigator support • In addition, food was delivered to 116 families (389 individuals) 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“Having trusted Spanish speaking navigators on the ground was incredibly helpful and also identified some system issues. For example, unemployment did not have a Spanish link for applying. In the early stages, Spanish speaking community members would reach out to Navigators who would work with bi-lingual staff to assist in answering the questions. Having unearthed the problem we were able to go to Senator Hinds and the problem was fixed.”</p> <p>“An employer contacted us for assistance for a staff member that was in distress. She had been in quarantine for 14 days because of exposure which required the use of all paid time off. She is paid minimum wage, has two children and is the sole provider. The day she was allowed to go back to work while at work her daughter 19 was in an auto accident and was in the hospital fighting for her life. The employer knew that we helped people and thought we could assist her as the corporation doesn’t have any benefits for the employee. The most that the corporation could do was hold her job. The daughter has been left with a traumatic brain injury that will require full time care from her mother. The navigator was able to connect the mom with housing support, food delivery for the family, apply for SSDI for the daughter, apply for unemployment (uncertain if she is eligible), arrange for transportation to Boston, and assist with connecting her to a support group and the waiting list at the Brien center for mental health support. The Navigator has been doing twice a week check ins and provided some reading material on planning for a “new normal.”</p>		

Grantee	Berkshire Center for Justice	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	South Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To enable the center to continue offering and augmenting legal and social service support for low-income residents dealing with eviction/homelessness, lack of access to medical care, disability, domestic violence, elderly services and more.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With funds used for infrastructure and marketing to reach and accommodate clients, BCJ was able to provide direct legal counseling and referrals for legal, social and community services to 45 vulnerable families. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable clients represented first responders, brain injured persons, and seniors—all but one were very low to low income. • Cases dealt with fraud, wills/POA and medical proxy, landlord and tenant rights, evictions, unemployment benefits, and bankruptcy. 		

Grantee	Berkshire Immigrant Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide micro-grants of \$500 to the most vulnerable among their clients, including those known 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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 58 immigrant families with micro-grants, especially for landlords and utility companies due to loss of employment 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“The challenges we faced in distributing funds were mainly in regards to screening for eligibility. We wanted to ensure that we were helping the most vulnerable immigrant families who are not able to access any other government or state benefits. In order to do this we had to ask several questions in regards to immigration status, family size, employment, biographic information, and evidence of financial hardship. The screening process for each family was conducted by BIC caseworkers and the director, averaging an hour of consultations and data input per household. After eligibility was established checks were written and sent to the landlords or companies from which the evidence was provided for bill payments.”</p>		

Grantee	Cathedral of the Beloved	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$20,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 14 homeless and housing insecure residents with health education and safe practices and social support • Supported public safety through infrastructure and PPE 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided volunteers with meaningful and safe ways to serve: "People who are housed and have jobs and transportation are just as served and vital to this effort as those who have no housing or are most resource insecure." • Conducted outreach to St. Joseph's • "As we build the relationships, focus on lifting up that we each and all matter from the smallest details that move us to the bigger concerns of the system and that we see ourselves and each other increasingly in the whole, what this pandemic is bringing home, comes alive." • "One person we know has extremely high anxiety about this pandemic. He comes everyday to check in, get his temperature taken, have coffee, worry aloud. The days go by and it becomes clear that checking in with us is part of his new normal. We notice a deeper comfort, as he can talk on his phone, be more present with us in conversation, demonstrate ease in his use of the space. Clearly feeling that this is his landing pad, some ground. His conversations are much less agitated." 		

Grantee	Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Housing and Homeless	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To cover mortgage payments, taxes and insurance for 29 families representing 115 people for 60 days.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided mortgage principle, taxes and insurance for 86 individuals with 3/5 of funding (more to be provided in June) 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What we have seen is that not everyone was totally laid off but had hours severely cut which made unemployment very difficult to obtain.” • The highest number of direct assists were for unemployment, SNAP, housing and emergency food delivery. • A family of 7 who has never needed assistance was contacted and what we found was that the husband had lost his job in the restaurant he works at the wife works in the human service field and was on employer mandated quarantine because a client was being tested for COVID 19. In her situation, she did not get paid for the time off and when tested she was negative and the client ended up not being positive either. The support in housing payment, assistance with applying for unemployment for the husband, emergency food, assistance with getting school lunches and assisting with picking up Chromebooks for the children’s school were just some of the work that was completed with the family. Because of the experience with her employer the homeowner began thinking about her assets that were identified. She is bilingual, just completed college where she was a dean’s list graduate. By identifying her assets, our community care provider helped her apply for a much better job at the jail which she began working at last week. The community care team will assist with job search for the husband when childcare becomes viable. 		

Grantee	Construct	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1.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.</p> <p>2.To support a new Rental Loan Program to serve 10-12 families whose “moderate” income has decreased due to the pandemic. Participants will be referred to Greylock Federal Credit Union, which will provide financial coaching to assist with budgeting, credit score improvement, fraud disputes and companion banking services.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<p><u>Essential Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 200 individuals provided housing services • All Construct clients and tenants housed before the pandemic remain safely housed <p><u>Rental Loan Program</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In progress: signed agreement in place between Greylock Federal Credit Union, funds have been deposited, the application is in place and staff have been identified and trained to carry out the program. • “We anticipate that 95% of the funds to be used to collateralize microloans of \$1000-\$2500 for south Berkshire renters who are of moderate income. 5% of the grant will be used for Construct staff support and administration.” 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct was able to quickly pivot based on our knowledge of the community, relationships and best practices provided through CDC, National Low-Income Housing Coalition, our tri-county continuum of care for housing and homelessness and south Berkshire partnerships. • We also deepened our appreciation for community partners in the non-profit as well as small business community. Local landlords are passing on relief that they receive to their tenants and working with them to be sustainable. In another place, the functional and now legal moratorium on evictions could have created an “us vs them” dynamic. Here it has deepened everyone’s resolve to work together to a sustainable solution for all. 		

Grantee	Iglesia Castillo Fuerte	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$20,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	Small, independent Baptist congregation of immigrant families mostly of Latino descent from different parts of the world. The funding will support 45 families with small emergency grants, gift cards and masks.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 households of immigrants provided financial assistance for rent, mortgage, utility, insurance, and taxes • Purchased 1000 face masks from Berkshire County Seamsters 		
Other Highlight(s)			

Grantee	Josh Bresette Commit to Save a Life Committee	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People with addiction disorders	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To be used for sober living rents for those who have completed a detoxification or clinical stabilization program and are ready to move onto the next step of recovery. Sober living homes provide a safe and supportive environment that is essential to successful treatment for those seeking recovery from opioid use.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 individuals directly affected by COVID-19 provided rent support for sober living homes • Expanded services to accommodate 9 new clients 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the COVID-19 pandemic we have found that the recovery community has been affected particularly hard. Loss of unemployment, isolation, and minimal services in recovery facilities has added additional stress and concerns to a person trying to work a recovery program. Relapse is prevalent and overdoses are up by 60%. There have been several overdose deaths in Berkshire County. • Amid increasing demand, “because of the assistance we received we were able to accommodate every request.” • “When our organization assists someone who is just starting out on the road to recovery we hope for a success story. It is not always the case as relapse is always a strong possibility. I often tell the story of one particular young man whom we had helped several times over and over again. We would assist him with rides to detoxification where he would stay for 4 or 5 days only get out and use again. This went on for several years but we never gave up on him. In 2018 he tried something different, he went to detox and then furthered his treatment through a Clinical Stabilization Service Program for 21 days. From there he went to a certified sober living home. Our organization once again assisted him, this time with 2 months of rent at the sober home. By the third month at this home, he not only remained sober but he also found employment and after several months was able “step up” and move into his own apartment at the same sober living facility. During this whole time he had been able to financially support himself without the assistance of anyone. He achieved everything we had hoped for in the beginning; he was clean from drugs, had a good job, he had rebuilt his life to become a functioning member of the community. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit this man was laid off from his job. He became extremely stressed-out, not knowing how he would buy groceries, pay rent, and keep his other bills current. The Josh Bresette Commit to Save a Life organization was able to assist him through the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund by paying his rent in April and again in May. He will be going back to work on June 1 (tentatively). He is grateful for the assistance and we are thankful to have been able to help him.” 		

Grantee	Louison House	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$37,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. To continue to provide emergency housing (rental, motels and space in the house, as well as a few small tents), staffing, transportation, extra food and supplies, and a cooling space when temperatures are high.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided COVID-safe emergency housing for 90 people experiencing homelessness across the two grants. • Housing includes supplies, maintenance, cleaning and utilities. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We have been able to place all who have called for emergency housing for at least a temporary basis.” • “The use of spaces for spreading people about and accommodating their needs including social distancing was very important. Additionally, the way we can set up more homelike atmosphere with accommodations that give them space they can play cards, do puzzles, crafts and other activities or watch TV, makes people feel comfortable and safe.” • “The stress, the fear and anxiety for everyone is high at this time, but for people dealing with homelessness and the other issues that led to their situation, it can often be even greater. The homeless already feel isolated, disappointed, depressed, and other emotions, and COVID is exacerbating these feelings. The more we can look past the initial behavior and listen to the person, the better we are able to support them in dealing with this pandemic that is in all of our lives.” • “John H returned to North Adams after a few months living in Maine with his daughter because the housing situation did not work out. He felt that he made a mistake in leaving town where all the rest of his family is and giving up his housing voucher and housing. He called Louison House as he was heading back into the area and luckily we could put him into emergency housing. John is in his 60's with many health issues and has been on disability since 1997. With Louison House's support, he immediately got on the phone, worked hard to get all the necessary paperwork lined up and got on all local affordable housing lists. With Louison House's letter of homelessness he moved to the top of the list and a place opened in North Adams housing where he had lived for 10 years before getting his housing voucher and moving out into the community. Luckily, John was housed fairly quickly. He is doing well back in his old surroundings and is very pleased with his housing and with all that Louison House did for him. We were able to get him assistance from the Neighbor to Neighbor program so that his first month's rent was covered so that he could buy other necessities for his new apartment and settle bills as he spent all his income on a moving company to move him back to North Adams. Louison House got a 		

	truck and volunteers to help him move his items from storage and helped him to get other items for his apartment from our storage area.”
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Grantee	Service Net	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	To add staff to support the 24-hour shelter in the old St. Joseph's Central High School to deconcentrate Barton's Crossing and Soldier On. Both facilities cannot meet the social distance conditions advised and this will diminish the risk of infection to shelter guests and staff.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 individuals provided shelter and fed three meals a day • The move to St. Joseph's Central High School made services, such as housing services, more accessible to clients 		
Other Highlight(s)	Two individuals would not have engaged with case managers had not the temporary move been made downtown. They have now obtained housing.		

Grantee	Soldier On	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	People experiencing homelessness	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide three meals per day for every shelter resident residing at the newly operational shelter at St. Joseph's Central High School and also provide Soldier On staff to assist Service Net staff during the overnight shift 7 days a week. Will also fund three meals per day for six weeks for Barton's Crossing current residents, four weeks of lunch for Soldier On current residents, three meals for two weeks for Soldier On current residents and two weeks of additional staffing and laundry.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served 4,888 meals over three times per day from April 6-May 22 (daily average of 45 dinners, 35 lunches and 30 breakfasts). • Provided overnight staffing for 20 veterans housed at shelter 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>"Providing a nutritious breakfast and lunch to individuals at St. Joe allowed participants the opportunity to remain at St. Joe and not leave during the day, this allowed for individuals to have less exposure to people and places throughout Pittsfield and kept everyone centralized and safe....Individuals were more apt to engage in conversation with regards to wanting to transition out of homelessness.... [and to] focus more on what their future was going to be rather than where they would be getting their meal that morning, afternoon or evening. Food has allowed for forward thinking rather than short term thinking."</p>		

Grantee	South Berkshire Emergency Response Center (Southern Berkshire Regional Emergency Planning Committee)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To provide emergency lodging at local motels for south county healthcare workers and first responders, as well as housing and meals for COVID-19 positive first responders and healthcare workers who can't safely quarantine at home.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided temporary crisis housing/lodging and delivered food for three healthcare workers • Enhanced communications for first responders (e.g., daily email updates) in 12 towns • Supplied and distributed PPE for first responders • In adjusting to the reduced demand by essential workers, developed "We Read Stories" program where volunteers read stories to isolated rural seniors and listened to them: identified the need, identified community partners, developed the program, developed and delivered volunteer training and identified seniors to participate in the program. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>"In our response to Covid-19, we learned that this pandemic did not "behave" as we had planned that a pandemic would. For example, in our planning, we planned for 30 - 40 % of staff being out ill or caring for those at home who were ill. That was not the case here in Berkshire County. Therefore, we found ourselves needing to develop different tools and programs (like the 3 mentioned above) to keep our volunteers engaged, offer meaningful programs to the community and communicate with our towns."</p> <p>"One such story is that of a young mom, who works as a nurse at a residential facility in our area. She lives a distance away from the Berkshires, but travels to town to work double shifts over the weekend. As her family lives nearby, she leaves her infant daughter with her parents while she works, then returns to sleep overnight. During the pandemic, she was assigned to care for patients who has tested positive for Covid-19. As she did not want to exposure her baby or her mother, who is recovering from cancer, she made the decision to sleep in her car over the weekend. She was thrilled to learn of the offer of a hotel room at no cost to her. She was very thankful for the opportunity to sleep in a bed instead of her car while being able to keep her family safe."</p>		

Emergency Child Care

Grantee	18 Degrees	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers; Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1. To pay child care staff and a facilities manager to be onsite while it is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, for children of essential workers; to purchase supplies that are uniquely required during this outbreak, such as sanitizing supplies; and to help cover the extra time and site adaptations needed to make it ready for emergency childcare and to minimize risk of spreading the virus.</p> <p>2. To support the increase of health and safety precautions as they transition from emergency child care back to regular operations.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely provided child care for children (age 2-12) of 29 families of essential workers • Created a safe, and remote pickup and drop-off procedure that didn't exist before • Allowed essential workers such as nurses the ability to continue working and increase necessary shifts to cover the needs of the community 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding was used to obtain required building and fire inspections, employ 9 teachers, 2 program administrators, and provide the necessary, daily space cleaning for the center, purchase necessary classroom supplies, food, thermometers, blankets, and cleaning supplies. • "At first, we had apprehensions about our ability to provide a child care program while adhering to necessary social-distancing protocols, along with supporting the health and safety of the children and staff. However, we learned how to manage providing a necessary program while keeping the space safe and clean for the children by following the DPH and CDC guidelines for cleaning. We developed precautions, like pre-screening and continued visual/monitoring screenings, wearing of masks by children and staff, and use creative room arrangements supporting social distancing, to ensure total program safety. By incorporating these processes into child care, although challenging, we have been able to provide a safe, supportive, educational, and fun environment for families to leave their children in during this challenging time." • "The first day getting to know the protocol of drop off and pick up was certainly different. Upon arrival I was directed to call so a staff member could meet us outside. The staff member comes out with a mask, gloves, and an ear thermometer and I am asked to maintain the 6 ft. social distancing guideline. Initially it made me feel awkward and uncomfortable, which changed quickly into great comfort knowing my child is in safe, educated, well prepared hands. I am extremely grateful for all of the staff at 18 Degrees, who make the decision to show up each day, leave their loved ones, their home front to take care of my son, take time to talk or answer any questions I may have. Truly an outstanding place!" 		

Grantee	Adams Youth Center (Youth Center Inc.)	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	<p>1. 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 childcare. 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.</p> <p>2. To support extra staff over the next two months while school is closed, as well as Chromebooks for remote learning, the ability to maintain online engagements with members and cleaning maintenance.</p>		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely provided child care for 34 children of families of essential workers 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This has meant needing extra clean supplies PPE equipment, extra printing supplies to print school work, extra staff hours for cleaning, following all new weekly protocols. We have used the fund to help supplement payroll cost, additional lap tops and head phones for the children to do their school work daily, outside equipment, such as new sand for sand box, new sprinklers, basketball hoops, and games, exc. We have purchased material for the kids to sew their own mask in sewing class.” • “Keeping to a set schedule, as far as school work and program times has worked well. Keeping the same staff throughout this pandemic and adhering strictly to our cleaning and sanitizing schedule has worked well, especially as we will continue to work through phases of reopening to our summer program. Keeping personal belonging properly spaced. Drop off at the door and not allowing any other adults into the building. I think just being consistent and as flexible at times has help our family and staff.” • “We have had a great response from parents and teachers by providing the school work times and special zoom meetings with teachers throughout the day.” • “One of the children who attends was in the care of someone who sometimes did not show up and his aunt who he lives with was missing work. She is now able to make it to work every day. Doing school work and communicating with teachers has also helped her and all of our family.” 		

Grantee	Berkshire County Head Start	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	In preparation for children coming in on June 29, to set up additional space to spread out staff offices and potentially add an additional classroom at the Pittsfield site.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 120 children from low-income families with child care • Safely reopened agency 		
Other Highlight(s)	“Our program created a comprehensive reopening plan aligned with the revised EEC safety guidelines. Included in this plan was the redesigning of our classrooms and office spaces to implement the safeguards to ensure the safety of our staff and children.”		

Grantee	Berkshire Family YMCA	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield/North Adams
Grant Purpose(s)	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.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely provided child care for 76 children of families of essential workers (50 in Pittsfield and 26 in Northern Berkshire) 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used funding for cleaning supplies, arts and crafts, and staff time. • Two shifts for staff, keeping them employed but also have time with their own families • “First day of our program a child was dropped off to us. Mom works at the hospital, and Dad is a police officer. Mom said how they tried keeping her home with babysitters, but it didn't work out. Child was nervous to come and didn't know any of the staff or the children. Mom had said at drop off that if she was sad/upset to call her. She said if it didn't work out she didn't know what she was going to do. Child had a great day, after initially having some tears. When mom picked up at end of day, child came out and said, “I love it here, can I come back tomorrow”. This not only made our day, and the child's but mom was so excited, and said how she can work now with peace of mind that her child was safe and happy. This why we do what we do...” 		

Grantee	Child Care of the Berkshires	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Central and Northern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To help with deep cleaning and sanitization of the centers, purchase of PPE (gloves, gowns, thermometers) and extra staff to ensure program spaces are cleaned and sanitized during the first two months of operation.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-opened three child care centers June 29th, providing safe care for 84 children from low-income families • Staff trained in new regulations, protocols and expectations under COVID • Improved staff morale 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “CCB has learned that during the shut down period our teachers and home visitors became very creative in reaching out to parents and children.” • “Many parents with older children have been frustrated with virtual school work; children learn better in an school environment.” 		

Grantee	Child Development and Education, Inc.,	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$5,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	Securing matching funds from the Commonwealth Children's Fund to support family child care providers with reopening plans.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided financial support to 23 high-quality family child care providers so that they may remain a viable option for vulnerable families as they return to work. • Purchased PPE supplies for children and families and educational supplies for individual provider use as recommended by state guidelines 		
Other Highlight(s)			

Grantee	Dalton Community Recreation Association	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$7,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To offer child care service for essential workers and vulnerable families that have no other option for non-group child care.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided child care for 15 families with a parent who is an essential workers • No children or staff became ill while attending program 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We were able to provide the community with a critical childcare solution. By using these funds, we were able to keep our children safe by having appropriate levels of staff, as well as cleaning supplies.” • “A woman contacted us Friday before camp started and was in desperate need for childcare for 2 siblings. The 2 children were her grandchildren and she just received custody of them that morning. She works as a nurse and was essential at work. She thanked us numerous times and even gave our staff a card to show her appreciation.” • “Many of the families we worked with were extremely thankful and said we were the only thing that was allowing them to go back to work at their essential workplaces.” 		

Grantee	Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	2 Awards = \$50,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families/Youth	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.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. 2.To support startup costs for new equipment and staffing needs to transition into regular group child care under the Department of Early Education and Care's minimum requirements for health and safety. 		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely provided child care for 98 children of low-income families (in Early Childhood Education, ABC School Age Enrichment and Camp Stevenson-Witawentin) 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Brigham Community Center opened as an Exempt Emergency Child Care Program in Pittsfield for families to be used when all other non-group-care settings have been exhausted and families had no other options on March 30, 2020 for up to 40 children.... We operated the program until we were able to reopen for the “new normal” on June 29, 2020.” • “We really had to think creatively about our space and use what we could so we can support as many families as possible.” • “I cannot say enough about how proud I am of our staff who have returned to day to day operations under very different and very difficult conditions. They are truly amazing and are making the children here feel welcome and are providing them with the most creative learning environment they can under the “new normal”. They are dedicated to their field and to providing warm, caring, competent and focused attention to children under these new minimum standards for health and safety.” • “We got a call from a Department of Children & Families social worker regarding a young girl, age 8, whose father was killed in a motor vehicle accident. She is in foster care with the mother of her 2-year-old brother. The Mom was struggling with the loss of her significant other and caring for her son while trying to manage supporting this young girl with the loss of her father so tragically. We were asked if we had space in emergency care for her given, she was in a in DCF custody and a vulnerable child who had suffered a tremendous loss. She started with us three days a week, three days lead to full time and she settled in with our group having positive interaction daily with a couple of other girls in the emergency care and receiving additional support from our staff. We were also able to provide a space and staff person so that she could participate in Zoom calls with her therapist while with us, one less thing for the Mom to worry about as she too was trying to get her life back to some type of normal. She did extremely well in care with us and Mom was able to get a new job so when we switched from emergency care to summer camp, she stayed with us and is participating at Camp Stevenson-Witawentin on Onota Lake. She is doing great, enjoying her days and we are so happy that we were able to be 		

	here for her during this time. We are working on securing her a space for the fall so she can continue to stay engaged in a safe supervised setting with her peers.”
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Grantee	Lee Youth Association	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$43,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Essential workers	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	1. Will support emergency child care for essential employees of Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing, which is manufacturing drugs that could benefit patients suffering from COVID-19. 2. To support the opening of Busy Bee Learning Center in July, including safety protocols.*		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safely provided child care for 7 children of families of essential workers 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding was used to help support extra staff and regular staff once the PPP loan period was over, and for extra cleaning supplies. The program was small and allowed us to spend more individual time with children during a period that could have been difficult for children and their families "Families who work for Berkshire Sterile Manufacturing were essential in that they were working on a drug for COVID19. So I guess I like to think that many people will be affected in a very positive way by the work that BSM is doing and that our childcare program played a small but important part in this." 		

Youth Services

Grantee	Arts in Recovery	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$7,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	Will support the arts-based youth suicide prevention program that serves predominately low-income families by funding supplies and technology needed to move to an online platform.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided therapeutic arts programming for 40 families with youth at risk for suicide • Youth at less risk for suicide • Families more connected online and less isolated • Youth employed as skills counselors 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities were specifically designed by an art therapist to help regulate trauma responses, manage emotions such as depression and anxiety related to health concerns and isolation, and to decrease isolation by connecting people • “I have learned that in times of crisis, offering kind and caring human connection and a container for their feelings (such as art) is extremely important. It can help people to realize, in a safe and supportive way, that they are not alone in their fear or grief, that they have the power to endure, and that we are stronger together.” • We worked with a teenager who was having thoughts and feelings of suicide after being displaced from her home and feeling that she had nowhere to turn during quarantine. When I spoke to her mother, she was exhausted and in a state of despair, to the point where she felt there was nothing left she could do to help her daughter. When we home delivered art supplies to her family, they were excited and felt cared for. The daughter joined our teen group, where she quickly felt accepted and understood. Through writing, art making, and similar age peer support, she was able to open up about how she was feeling and to find some hope. We also connected her to other art opportunities where she then collaborated with other teens on a digital art and poetry project for suicide prevention. The project was very meaningful to her, and it also gave her a chance to earn some income to help support her family. She is keeping in regular contact with the teen group and has made some new friends. Her suicidal thoughts have decreased and she is feeling much better than she did only a few weeks ago. I feel so grateful that our program gave her an alternative to being in a psychiatric hospital during a pandemic, and to avoid any further trauma in her life. 		

Grantee	Berkshire South Regional Community Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To open both the summer camp and child care program for ages 2 years, 9 months through 14, following MA guidelines.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 91 youth provided safe childcare, half of whom are from low-income families • Created a safe temporary, alternative camp offsite • Provided financial assistance to low-income families • Allowed parents to go back to work 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “As a working parent, the uncertainty around COVID and work and childcare has been overwhelming. Tempering that has been the transparency and care of the childhood staff at Berkshire South throughout. As I prepare to send my two kids to camp this summer, I am comforted knowing that they are with a team who really loves them and cares about their safety and their well-being. Without this camp, my family would have had to make difficult job choices and sacrifices that would extend long after COVID restrictions are lifted.” • “Being offsite has given us the ability to re-open our pool and fitness facility during Phase Three of Governor Baker’s re-opening plan, enabling us to meet community need in areas other than childcare. This is something we would not have been able to do if our campers were onsite because of restrictions around visitors and transient guests accessing the childcare program areas for at least the first two months following re-opening.” 		

Grantee	Boys & Girls Club of the Berkshires	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To support necessary preparations for opening summer camps (Day Camp, Sports Camp, Recreational Therapy Camp and Preschool Camp) on June 29 for 8 weeks for over 100 campers.*		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely provided pre-school and summer camp education for 125 children from low-income families 		
Other Highlight(s)	"The re-opening of both camp and Pre-school went well. Our staff worked incredible hard to insure safety first as well as a quality program."		

Grantee	Community Legal Aid	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$17,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Low-income families	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To be able to use a lawyer to assist low-income students and families with issues related to their children's education and income stability, and to acquire technical equipment to increase connectivity in the North Adams satellite office.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established first program of its kind in Berkshire County to provide education law expertise to the low-income students and families Families, legislators and community providers more aware of legal issues, rights, services and supports North County satellite office fully-functioning 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used funds to pay salary and benefits of an attorney, to respond to the particular challenges posed by school closures and virtual learning, connect students to necessary supports including medical and mental health services, and help families access benefits to maximize their income. "We have learned from CSA workers that, statewide, districts are marking children absent when caregivers do not have the technological hardware or internet, IT knowledge, English language proficiency, or literacy necessary to successfully navigate virtual lessons. This troubling trend is exacerbated when the high rate of absenteeism is accompanied by a high rate of 51A reports to DCF." "CLA attorneys are participating in a statewide working group with other special education attorneys to draft standardized family engagement materials for the state Department of Education. This includes a Family Community Questionnaire that guides schools in their interaction with families (e.g., by asking for the primary language of the home, the best time to reach parents, and available technology), thereby encouraging genuine communication and collaboration." "Outreach focused on helping parents understand the steps they can and should take now, before schools reopen, to secure summer services for special education students, track lost skills that need to be regained, or establish relationships with outside therapeutic providers or medical supports." "We anticipate many individual cases as parents prepare for school in September and again when schools reopen in the fall, but right now families are understandably exhausted at the close of an unprecedented academic year." 		

Grantee	Dalton Community Recreation Association	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	Central Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To support an educational, fun, virtual-free, safe summer camp for youth (of which approximately 50% of the families are low-income and receive some financial aid).		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 youth provided safe childcare, half of whom are from low-income families • Smaller staff-student ratios built stronger relationships and reduced poor behavior 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“A family in Pittsfield has 3 children at home. They are currently receiving assistance and were out of work due to Covid-19. We were able to offer all three children camp at no cost. The students have flourished and said they love coming to camp because they are able to see other campers as well as participate in arts and craft projects and swimming daily.”</p>		

Grantee	MassHire Berkshire Career Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$17,500
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	Will support the Berkshire Training & Employment Inc. (BTEI) program, which provides vulnerable youth with educational, vocational and career preparation and family support. BTEI offers Young Parent Support, Workforce Innovative Opportunity Act (WIO) Title I Services and Youth Works summer programming.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 7 at-risk students ages 14-21 with access to computers and virtual training programming • Participants have been able to learn valuable life skills and information about career pathways that will benefit them in the future 		
Other Highlight(s)			

Grantee	Multicultural BRIDGE*	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Communities of color and immigrants	Geographical Area Served	Berkshire County
Grant Purpose(s)	To continue to help Happiness Toolbox families with continued access to resources. Will run parent education (based on the toolbox curriculum) and Women to Women bilingually from a digital format.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 families provided online and drop in education and engagement emphasizing positive psychology, holistic psychology and diversity leadership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An estimated X young people participated in Happiness Toolbox, which emphasized positive psychology, diversity, mindfulness and the importance of play. ○ An estimated Y immigrant, women of color participated in Women to Women, which provides support, companionship, encouragement and professional development and learning. 		
Other Highlight(s)	<p>“As part of on-going support, BRIDGE has held weekly meetings with women through its “Women to Women” group (which previously met monthly) and has provided assistance with families trying to support their children with at home learning. Many families were confused about how to get assistance through the school departments and many needed technical support and information on how to conduct learning online. Some families did not have computers or equipment to enable their children to connect with at home schooling nor did they have the fluency in English to advocate for their children’s needs. BRIDGE is providing continued support to these families and offering tutoring through BRIDGE’s network of volunteers.”</p>		

Grantee	Railroad Street Youth Project	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$25,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	Southern Berkshire
Grant Purpose(s)	To redesign and implement programs (Drop-in Center, Apprenticeship Program, Youth Operational Board, Self-Care Club) to best serve the immediate, emerging needs of at-risk youth experiencing significant risk factors due to Covid-19 (isolation, elevated symptoms of depression and anxiety, family stressors including food and housing insecurity, homo/transphobia, problems with family alcohol/drug use, environmental stressors such as structural racism, etc.) while maintaining safety for all.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 75 at-risk youth provided safe access to programming and benefited from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Socializing (drop-in center/skate park) ○ Fitness and mindfulness (summer fit programs, yoga) ○ Cooking skills and nutrition (culinary program) ○ Mentoring through youth empowerment (RYSE) • New partnerships with other community organizations 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “By tapping into the knowledge and expertise of former culinary students, a menu and experience was created with youth cooking at home in mind.” • “Partnering with Lifeworks has allowed us to broaden our network and reach out to youth who may not have accessed a RSYF program in the past.” • “One young person participating in our culinary program just moved into her first apartment and has been struggling with food security. When she got her first delivery for the program, she was amazed at the fresh ingredients offered, and excited to start cooking with vegetables she’s always wanted to try but didn’t have the money or confidence to purchase.” 		

Grantee	ROOTS Northern Berkshire Teen Center	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth	Geographical Area Served	
Grant Purpose(s)	Will address increased demand for afterschool programming. Will support the development of regular online activities for ages 14-22. Workshop materials will be provided via scheduled pick-up outside the center or home delivery. Will also host online meet-ups several times per week so youth can connect with one another and caring adults, as well as open mic nights, poetry slams and other group activities.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 45 youth with online afterschool programming • Developed new programs (culinary and bicycle workshop) • Enabled safe outdoor exercise for 12 of the youth 		
Other Highlight(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We found that working with our partners to get the word out was our best outreach. It took a bit of time, but our programs have built traction over the past couple of weeks, and we are at capacity for the culinary program, with a waitlist for overflow.” • “We learned that it is challenging to reach youth during this difficult time, especially as they navigate the end of school in a different format than they are accustomed to. As mentioned above, it took a while to engage youth in our virtual programming, but now we are actually in the opposite position of needing to turn youth away. We hope that we will be able secure future funding to continue some of this programming, as it has proven to be immensely popular.” • “We are also able to provide 12 youth with a refurbished bicycle, helmet, lock and lights through this grant. While the initial programming is virtual (2-hour safety workshop and 2-hour maintenance workshop), the hope is that having these bikes will allow youth to get outside while observing safe social distancing. As we navigate the recommendations and guidelines of the state, we hope to be able to meet up in person with these 12 youth and do a bicycle ride together - again, while safely distancing. Youth have had little opportunity to get exercise outside until recently, and as playgrounds, basketball courts, etc. are currently restricted, they need something active to do. This program gives them the equipment, knowledge and tools to achieve this.” 		

Grantee	Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts	Total Grant(s) Awarded	\$10,000
Sub-Population(s) Served	Youth/Communities of Color	Geographical Area Served	Pittsfield
Grant Purpose(s)	R.O.P.E. members/alumni and mentors of Sessions Athletics and Life Skills Training will lead a program, "We Are in This Together - Youth Link Up," to keep youth engaged and safely in their homes through activities and conversation.		
Reported Result(s) to Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided online education, mentoring and engagement for 1,175 youth, promoting mental health • Youth less anxious and isolated 		
Other Highlight(s)	A young man that was initially shy and hiding behind his face during sessions, slowly became more involved showing his face and having conversations. This week he came on during a Mental Health check in. Initially he didn't want to share but within 5 minutes the facilitator, a Mental Health practitioner, was able to engage him and he shared that a friend died, and he went further to say it was suicide. The facilitator and other students were compassionate and recognized his loss. It was an amazing site to hear how the youth poured out love and it soothed and calmed him.		