

Live Discussion: COVID-19 Funder Response 4.10.20 Chat

- How are you thinking about balancing and phasing funding for immediate needs --food, for example---with longer term rebuilding needs (support for the arts, for example)?
- How, if at all, has your PROCESS for approving grant award decisions (not the things you might fund) changed? Is authority being delegated to a subset of the board or to staff in any way in order so that you might respond to the COVID-19 crisis more rapidly?
- Have their foundations decided to increase their usual annual grants and if so, by what percentage?
- In assessments of COVIC-related need among grantees, do boards or ED's have metrics or numerical scales of urgency, importance or scale? Are there new alliances available with larger foundations, corporate pools, or government? Or "efficacy"? How might it be determined that such grants are achieving stated aims or goals? Is it possible? Is it too soon? Is it irrelevant?
- The government is spending massive money now. For example, nonprofits can apply for the SBA/PPP loans. I know I have encouraged every nonprofit I support to do that and am helping them on that process. But also there are major changes. For example, enabling people to use food stamps online and for home delivery is vital for people with disabilities, especially those who are blind and/or use wheelchairs as they can't easily "social distance" while shopping. How are you all looking at getting the government to fill holes/partner?
- Yes-We have adopted an every 2 week Covid 19 Helping Hands grant program for grants of \$3,000. Delegated approval authority to executive committee of the Board.
- We have moved from quarterly to monthly grant reviews, with a streamlined application form. The board will make decisions at each monthly meeting.
- Have their foundations decided to increase their usual annual grants and if so, by what percentage?
- Central Oklahoma Funders Roundtable used the information shared last week and rallied to create a similar relief pool and circulated our first call for requests today.
Thank you for all the great information provided last week!!
- Our board is meeting via zoom weekly, grants committees have been encouraged to make decisions leaning into trust and the long term

relationships we've had with many of our grantees. We've made about 2/3 of our grants that we'd typically make in a full year already, have awarded all grants as operating support (and converted all 2019 grants retroactively), and are working to pool an over-and-above typical grantmaking covid response in our community.

- We made several "special COVID-19" grants to a select number of our grantees --those focused on healthcare (including mental health!) & food security. In addition we made a large donation to our local Comm. Fd. and joined its task force to assist the efficiency in getting needed funding to the most in need.
- The larger foundations came together quickly, developed a way to expedite a grant request thru UWay, monies dispersed from there for the initial round. I believe this process was discussed last week with our ED, board member, and a non-profit CEO. As a new trustee, I was very impressed with the on the ground support from a lead board member and the ED. They quickly worked all communication lines between Funders and non-profits to determine needs and ensure a super quick response.
- I hope and believe we will all become better funders as a result of COVID
- Completely agree, Valerie! We're taking a hard look at all of the things we've been able to change in light of C19 and recognizing a lot of these need to be permanent changes.
- Thank you all. And we welcome any drafted models of written communications to all grantees that signal all of what is vital that we are saying: that we are here alongside
- <http://castellano-ff.org/blueprint/>