

Orange County COVID-19 Response

OC Community Resilience Fund

By establishing the OC Community Resilience Fund, our collective purpose is to bolster and coordinate philanthropic response to the disruptive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our most vulnerable communities.

It's a perfect storm.

Orange County, the State of California, and the nation declared a state of emergency in March 2020, and are braced for the impact of COVID-19, which was declared a pandemic by both the CDC and World Health Organization. This new virus is shaking economies across the world, and promises to test our health care capacity. If unmitigated, community fatalities could be very high.

Closer to home, we know that it is our community-based organizations that will take the brunt of the impact, both immediately and in the months to follow. Much like our hospitals and clinics are bracing for a dramatic increase in patients in need of acute care, our social service nonprofits must brace for the same, with potentially less contributions to support this important work, as the market continues to decline.

A prolonged pandemic will threaten the survival of our most vulnerable and marginalized communities. Parents of children no longer receiving free meals in schools that are shut down will turn to food banks. So too might part-time or contract workers that suddenly have no employment. The complexity of the public charge rules may deter immigrants from seeking health care.

A prolonged pandemic will also threaten the survival of nonprofits. Many nonprofits have little cash on hand to ride out declines in income. While some nonprofits are considering sending staff home, many are not equipped for remote work or capable of delivering a full range of client services remotely. Child-care centers like Head Start that rely on government contracts that pay only after proof of daily attendance will risk losing that funding. So too will elder-care organizations, job-training programs, and meal-delivery services. All will face increases in demand for services without the accompanying revenue that for-profit businesses could charge.

We know that our nonprofits are up to the challenge. But we also want to make sure our entire community can weather this storm.

We have a plan to support the front line...

The OC Community Resilience Fund will provide three types of grants to community providers:

- Funding to support community clinic operations for the purpose of providing preventative and medical services to those affected by COVID-19
- Funding to support emergency grants to individuals affected by COVID-19 due to quarantine, business closures and/or lay-offs, school or other community program closures and/or lay-offs
- Funding to support community-based organization operations for nonprofits serving vulnerable populations and who can present a clear case of direct impact due to the medical or economic effects of the pandemic

For information on how you can support, contact ResilienceFund@charitableventuresoc.org.

Resilience Fund Framework

For donors and foundations interested in collaborating on a response to the impact of COVID-19, the OC Community Resilience Fund is a targeted and strategic vehicle for philanthropic participation.

Geographic Focus	Orange County
Fund Objective	To bolster the efforts of community based organizations seeing increases and shifts in the needs of the communities they serve due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact.
Population Focus	Orange County’s most vulnerable and marginalized communities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans • Low income seniors • Households living under the poverty line • Immigrants and refugees • Homeless • Children ages 0-5 • School-aged Children, Youth, and Families • People with Disabilities • Uninsured
Grant making focus of the Fund	Grants are designed to support the core operations and capacity of nonprofits, and emergency grant programs designed for individuals. Funding will be provided to community-based organizations that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve the vulnerable populations listed above • Can illustrate increased need due to pandemic or economic impact • Offer critical social, civic, educational, cultural and health services such as: clinical care, child care, food distribution, shelter, and family programming among other services.
Grant Amounts	Grants will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 depending on the scope of impact and services offered. More detail will be provided in the online RFP.
Fundraising Goal	\$2 Million
Administration	The fund will be administered by Charitable Ventures, which will provide accounting and grants management in support of fund distribution. All administrative fees for the fund are covered by Orange County Community Foundation and St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund.
Grant Award Decisions	Rolling grant cycles, with application response within 30 days.
Reporting	While keeping the reporting burden minimal, we will seek information on numbers served and description of impact on the community and on nonprofit operations.

A resilient community.

When we work together...leverage our efforts...communicate our needs...stay flexible in an ever-changing environment... when we focus on the system of care...we can keep our community strong. We invite donors and foundations committed to the health of Orange County to join together in this effort. By pooling our funds, we can reduce both grant administration and grant application burden on all participants, which in turn will allow us to better support our regional nonprofits.

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