

DuPage Foundation Deploys \$300,000 in COVID-19 Response Fund Grants to 21 DuPage Not-for-Profits in its First Round of Aid

Media Fact Sheet

- [The DuPage Foundation](#), a 501(c)(3) public charity, focused on serving the residents of DuPage County, IL, has launched the [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- Created on March 19, the Fund has already secured more than **\$625,000** thanks to the support of generous lead partners including **the Birck Family** of Hinsdale and Naperville, the [Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund](#), **two area private foundations** wishing to remain anonymous, and grants from the **Gustafson Family Foundation and Snodgrass Family Funds of the DuPage Foundation**, along with scores of contributions from other individuals, businesses, and foundations.
- The DuPage Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund focuses exclusively on supporting DuPage County not-for-profits that are on the front line in providing critical aid to local residents who have been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Initial grant priorities for the Fund include:**
 - Emergency food and basic needs
 - Interim shelter and housing
 - Primary health and mental health services
 - Utility and financial assistance
 - Not-for-profit organizations' safety and technology needs to serve clients while sheltering in place
- On April 15, the Foundation awarded its first round of grants from the Fund totaling \$300,000. The list of 21 DuPage County not-for-profits that received grants can be viewed at dupagefoundation.org.
- As of April 15, 2020, the Foundation has received 69 applications totaling more than \$1.3 million in requested assistance.
- To apply for funding, DuPage not-for-profits should visit dupagefoundation.org and complete the [short application](#).
- Grants from the Fund will be awarded on a rolling basis, based on availability of resources, to DuPage County 501(c)(3) organizations, as needs are identified. The Fund will remain flexible to ensure that it supports current priorities as well as those that emerge as more hardships become evident.

(more)

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- The DuPage Foundation is sharing the applications it receives with its donor-advised fund representatives as well as other area funders, upon request, to help facilitate additional support for DuPage not-for-profits.
- The Foundation has also created a [resource portal](#) with information and links for donors, not-for-profits, professional advisors, businesses, and others about opportunities for aid and charitable incentives available under the new **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)**. Visit dupagefoundation.org for more detail.

HOW TO HELP:

- Donors are encouraged to continue giving directly to their favorite charities as they need support now more than ever.
- Give to the DuPage Foundation's COVID-19 Response Fund today at dupagefoundation.org to help do a world of good, right here in our own back yard, and be part of a powerful, collaborative response to this crisis for our community.

CONTACT:

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QUOTES:

- “Our family is pleased to support the DuPage Foundation and other local charities in addressing the needs of our community during this pandemic,” said **Chris Birck of Naperville**. “My mom, Kay, was a nurse, so healthcare is a very big part of our lives. This is truly a crisis of historic proportions.”
- “The support from our community and leaders like the **Birck Family** and so many others during this emergency has been incredible,” said **Dave McGowan, DuPage Foundation President & CEO**. “We are grateful for their partnership and encourage others with similar capacity to partner with us in delivering a powerful, collaborative response to this crisis. As our county’s philanthropic leader, the DuPage Foundation is committed to engaging those with the resources and ability to help to do so. Whether people choose to give directly to their favorite charities or through us, the goal is the same—fuel our local not-for-profits as quickly and efficiently as possible to help them serve our residents who are reeling from the effects of this pandemic.”
- “This is a time for all of us in DuPage County to come together to help and support each other,” said **Megan Shebik, DuPage Foundation Trustee and Grant Committee Chair**. “I’ve been deeply impressed by the collaborative efforts I’ve seen to date, and am extremely proud of the speed and deliberateness with which the Foundation has acted to create a program to aid our not-for-profits in addressing this crisis for our community. We anticipate that needs within the health and human services sector will be the most critical, but recognize that we must keep flexible in our responsiveness as the repercussions of this pandemic unfold.”