

# Frequently Asked Questions about the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund

**Q: I'm an individual affected by COVID-19. Can the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund at the Scranton Area Community Foundation help me?**

**A:** The Scranton Area Community Foundation understands many individuals and families have been affected already and more will continue to be affected by the coronavirus crisis. The **NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund** is working to move resources to community-based organizations that are directly supporting local residents and families affected by emerging health, economic, and social impacts. If you are looking for resources now, please call or visit 211 (<http://nepa211.org/>) or Neighborly PA (<http://www.neighborlypa.com/>).

**Q: My organization is interested in resources from this Fund. Can we be considered?**

**A:** We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting nonprofits in many ways, including increased demand for their services, lost revenue due to closures and cancellations, and other challenges. Our intention is that grants awarded will meet the greatest array of needs of the organizations and communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. In order to move resources efficiently and effectively, we are making every effort to simplify the grant application for these organizations. We will share information about how to apply on our site ([safdn.org/covid19/](http://safdn.org/covid19/)) once the process for granting is underway. You may email us at [info@safdn.org](mailto:info@safdn.org) to inform us of your needs. Additionally, we encourage nonprofit and civic organizations to join the NEPA Nonprofit Resources Google Group (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/nepa-nonprofit-resources>) to further collaborate with other organizations and funders to meet the most urgent needs.

**Q: I want to donate to the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund. Can I restrict my funding to a prioritized grantee?**

**A:** To ensure we move resources as efficiently as possible, we are not considering restricted donations at this time for this particular fund. The NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund was created in hopes of providing a way to coordinate as many resources as possible without significant barriers.

**Q: Should I give to this NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund instead of making other donations?**

**A:** The NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund was not created to be the only vehicle resourcing critical community activities during this outbreak. Rather, it is working to facilitate getting more targeted resources into the communities in Lackawanna County, quickly and effectively, where they are needed most. If the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund priorities align with your values, please consider making a donation. However, this is a critical time for many nonprofit organizations. Please continue to give to organizations you regularly support, and those that need your help at this crucial time.

**Q: What organizations are eligible for funding from the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund?**

**A:** Based upon the charitable structure of the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund, our grants will be limited to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the Lackawanna County region, groups fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution. We are also working collaboratively with funders and other community leaders in our broader region to ensure that funding needs are being met across Northeastern Pennsylvania. We encourage you to contact us at [info@safdn.org](mailto:info@safdn.org) if you are located outside of Lackawanna County, and are seeking resources.

# Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

## **Q: What can the funding from the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund be used for?**

**A:** These rapid-response grants will include but are not limited to addressing the issues below. If you are unsure about whether your organization is eligible, please contact us at [info@safdn.org](mailto:info@safdn.org).

- The economic impact to organizations and individuals in our communities caused by closures and cancellations
- Increased demand for health information and support for vulnerable populations. Capacity support for organizations trying to respond to their mission-critical needs in a restricted environment. Challenges in meeting operational needs that enable nonprofit organizations to remain open, pay staff, and cover fixed operational costs.
- Affected populations, including:
  - Residents without health insurance and/or access to sick days
  - Residents with limited English language proficiency
  - Healthcare, service industry, and gig economy workers
  - Low to moderate income and diverse communities

## **Q: Is there a fee to contribute?**

**A:** Scranton Area Community Foundation is covering the cost of all operational, technological, and administrative costs involved in leading this effort. With a focus on getting resources out to the community in this critical time, we are waiving any administrative fees for this fund, meaning that 100% of donations will go to community groups and leaders on the ground, except for a credit card fee for online donations, which is 3.75% + \$0.35 per transaction.

## **Q: How will the Fund shift gears if needed?**

**A:** Crisis philanthropy recognizes the need to provide immediate resources, as well as the importance of recovery resources to ensure community resilience. That said, the Fund priorities may evolve as our region adapts to the COVID-19 outbreak. We will continue to prioritize those that are most impacted.

To date, the Foundation has received a significant increase of requests regarding the need for one-time, immediate funding to support community organizations that:

- Serve vulnerable populations directly affected by COVID-19 and the economic, health and social implications of the containment efforts;
- Help mitigate the economic impacts of those community organizations doing mission-critical work in a restricted environment with reduced capacity and funding; and
- Face the prospect of permanently closing as they are not receiving critical fee-for-service income vital to the health of their operations.

## **Q: What else has the Foundation done to address concerns regarding COVID-19?**

**A:** In addition to establishing the NEPA COVID-19 Response Fund, the Scranton Area Community Foundation has:

- Maintained a rolling critical needs grants pool where organizations have the opportunity to apply for critical needs grants of up to \$10,000 in order to meet unintended expenses and address unplanned needs.
- Provided support for regional resources, such as 211 and Neighborly PA, so that the most relevant, impactful information is available to all individuals seeking local resources.
- Established the **NEPA Nonprofit Resources Google Group**, a discussion-focused group created for nonprofit, civic, government, and funding organizations to be able to quickly share information, needs, questions, and resources.
- Established a program of weekly webinars to help nonprofits, including training programs on crisis management; operations management; increasing fundraising revenue; and building sustainability, among other topics.
- Convened a collective of regional foundation and civic partners regularly to ensure that we are working both proactively and responsively when addressing our communities' needs.