



ARKANSAS
community foundation
Smart Giving to Improve Communities

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

ARE DONATIONS TO ARKANSAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION TAX DEDUCTIBLE?

Arkansas Community Foundation is exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3), and is a non-profit organization eligible to receive tax-deductible donations. Each donation to the Foundation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. All donations made to the COVID-19 Relief Fund will be granted to Arkansas nonprofits working to serve the state's most vulnerable populations and those disproportionately affected by the coronavirus and its economic fallout.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF MY DONATION GOES TO PANDEMIC RELIEF?

Aside from standard credit card processing fees, which vary by card, all donations made to the COVID-19 Relief Fund will be granted directly to qualifying Arkansas nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status or organizations treated as such under IRS law, which includes schools, hospitals and government entities

WHAT WILL THE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND BE USED FOR?

In the short term, the fund is providing rapid-response grants to nonprofit organizations working on the front lines. This critical funding will enable them to maintain operations and support the increased demand for services. In the intermediate term, the fund awards Phase Two Adaptation Grants between \$5,000 and \$25,000 to nonprofits and community organizations. These larger grants focus on addressing the ongoing economic needs of Arkansans affected by the pandemic and shoring up critical systems in our state, such as healthcare, emergency food distribution, schools, etc.

WHO HAS RECEIVED GRANTS FROM THE FUND SO FAR?

[Our website has a full listing](#) of all the nonprofits that have received mini-grants from the COVID-19 Relief fund so far. [Phase Two grant recipients are listed here.](#)

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR RECEIVING MINI-GRANTS?

Eligibility to apply: Any IRS 501(c)(3) public charity, school, hospital or government agency in Arkansas may apply. Grants are not made to individuals.

Criteria for considering approval of grant applications. We expect to award several rounds of grants over the coming months. During this first phase, priority will be given to organizations that:

- Provide human services and emergency assistance (for example, food, shelter, transportation, living expenses, rent/utility assistance, etc.)
- Primarily serve vulnerable populations, including children who are out of school/families without childcare, people who have lost a source of income due to the pandemic, people who are at high risk medically, people who are homeless or incarcerated, individuals who lack paid sick leave or health insurance, etc.
- Disseminate factual safety and response information to vulnerable communities such as non-English speaking residents, rural residents, senior citizens, etc.

At this time, organizations may receive only one mini-grant from our COVID-19 Relief Fund.

WHAT ARE PHASE TWO ADAPTATION GRANTS?

The purpose of the Phase Two Adaptation Grant program is to aid nonprofit and community organizations in:

- Adapting their operations to meet new needs in the community that have arisen from the pandemic or
- Delivering services in new ways to accommodate social distancing and other health and safety guidelines or
- Serving an expanded client base, i.e. reaching individuals who are experiencing new economic hardships due to the pandemic. (Emphasis is on vulnerable populations, including individuals who have lost a source of income due to the pandemic, low-income residents, individuals with greater health risks, immigrants and people with limited English language proficiency, people with a disability, people experiencing homelessness or incarceration, etc.)
- Grants are intended to help organizations adapt their work in these uncertain times, not to replace lost revenue.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A PHASE TWO ADAPTATION GRANT?

Any IRS 501(c)(3) public charity, public school, hospital or government agency in Arkansas may apply. Grants are not made to individuals. Organizations may receive

only one Phase Two Adaptation Grant. This is based on the organization's Tax ID number. Organizations that have multiple locations, programs, chapters or affiliates are encouraged to submit a coordinated application, rather than individual applications.

WHAT ARE THE AWARD AMOUNTS FOR PHASE TWO ADAPTATION GRANTS?

\$5,000 – \$25,000

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR THE PHASE TWO ADAPTATION GRANTS?

Priority will be given to organizations that are specifically addressing:

- Economic hardships of individuals Arkansans related to COVID-19, including food security, housing, household finances, etc.
- Support for small businesses or economic development related to COVID-19
NOTE: We do not fund for-profit (small and large) businesses directly, but we can fund nonprofit and community organizations that provide support and technical assistance to businesses.
- Physical and mental health care needs related to COVID-19
- Educational needs of children, including infants, toddlers and K-12 students related to COVID-19

Uses of this funding could include:

- Modifying or upgrading technology systems to serve clients remotely
- Modifying facilities to enable greater social distancing among essential personnel and clients
- Providing prepaid cell phones or WiFi hotspots to clients so they can continue to receive services remotely
- Disseminating public health information to clients. This could include translation services.
- Implementing changes to operating procedures necessitated by COVID-19
- Scaling up service delivery to support increased demand

This is not an exhaustive list, and other needs are considered.

WHAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE PHASE TWO ADAPTATION GRANTS?

- Support for capital campaigns
- Projects that address sectarian religious purposes

- Projects that are political in nature or have a political bias
- Multi-year proposals
- Scholarships or fellowships for formal education at any level
- Support for private schools

WHAT IS THE FOUNDATION'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE OF ARKANSAS FOR THE COVID-19 RELIEF FUND?

The COVID-19 Relief Fund was activated on March 18, 2020 by Arkansas Community Foundation. The Governor has recognized this fund and the Foundation as the most efficient and impactful way for Arkansans to give and help nonprofits in every corner of the state for pandemic relief. He (as have multiple Governors since our inception over 40 years ago) trusts us to “manage the traffic,” as he stated in his press conference, of money coming in and granting money to our trusted nonprofits using our criteria and vetting. For people, companies or foundations that want to give to specific areas or to certain counties or towns, we can help connect them. While the COVID-19 Relief Fund has been recognized by the Governor as the “official” fund and recommends that donations be made to it, the Community Foundation exclusively decides which nonprofits are awarded grants.

I AM A NONPROFIT, WHERE CAN I APPLY?

The grant portal for COVID-19 Relief Fund applications is currently closed but we will announce any new grant opportunities on social media and through our nonprofit newsletter. To receive notifications about new COVID-19 Relief Fund grant opportunities, follow us on Facebook or Twitter at @smartgivingar or [sign up for our newsletter here.](#)

CAN SMALL BUSINESSES OR INDIVIDUALS APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Small businesses and individuals are not eligible to apply; however, we will consider grants to nonprofit organizations that provide direct financial assistance to small businesses and individuals.

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH MY DONOR INFORMATION?

The Foundation will not share or sell any information provided as part of your donation to any third party or independent entity. All donor information will be visible to Arkansas Community Foundation authorized personnel only. We work closely with

our technology providers to ensure that our donors' data is secure. The entire website is secured with an SSL certificate and all communication between our website and the visitor's browser is encrypted. For donations made by credit card, our website DOES NOT store any credit card information.

HOW ARE YOU PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING?

The Community Foundation is following the [CDC guidelines](#) in our business practices at the central office in Little Rock and throughout our affiliate network.

CAN I MAKE AN IN-KIND DONATION?

The Foundation's central office in Little Rock does not have the capacity for accepting in-kind donations. However, we encourage you to find a trusted nonprofit in your community for these. You can visit our [Arkansas Nonprofit Directory](#) to find a charity in your area to make in-kind donations.

CAN I START A FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER FOR YOUR FOUNDATION?

While the ease of Facebook and other crowdfunding sites are becoming more popular, there are often additional hidden fees involved. The Foundation does not currently have the systems in place to track donations via Facebook because of issues in tracking who to credit. Instead, encourage your Facebook friends to donate to the COVID-19 Fund with the acknowledgment going to you. The Community Foundation can create friendly URLs (FURLS) that make giving directly to the COVID-19 Relief Fund and sharing on social media easy. Contact us for more information about creating a FURL for your fund at no cost.

CAN I DONATE TO HONOR SOMEONE OR IN THE MEMORY OF SOMEONE?

Yes. Simply have the person's address where you would like the acknowledgement of the donation to go. You can do that either on-line or if mailing a check, include the person's name and address to honor or memorialize and the name/address of the person you wish to acknowledge the donation.

CAN I GIVE MONTHLY BY AUTO-WITHDRAWAL?

Yes. You can make recurring donations to the COVID19 Relief Fund. Donations are set up through our on-line portal and the donations will automatically deducted from the credit card number you provide as often as you would like. You can also provide an end-date for recurring donations.

CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR ARKANSAS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION?

Volunteers are a crucial part of most nonprofit's success and we encourage those with time and resources to volunteer however they can while following the CDC guidelines during the pandemic. If you want to volunteer with an affiliate office near you or a local charity you care about, you can visit our [Arkansas Nonprofit Directory](#) to find a trusted charity close to you.

I REPRESENT A CORPORATION/BUSINESS/FAMILY FOUNDATION, HOW ELSE CAN I HELP YOUR ORGANIZATION?

Arkansas Community Foundation will work with your company – whether you are a small business owner or a major corporation – to make donations directly to the COVID-19 Relief Fund, to set up new funds or endowments. We are experts in and offer a variety of tools for smart corporate giving including CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and a Corporate Giving Toolkit. [Visit our Smart Corporate Giving page](#) to learn more or contact Ashley Coldiron at 501-372-1116 for more help.

I AM A PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR AND WANT TO HELP MY CLIENTS WORK WITH YOU FOR THEIR CHARITABLE GIVING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC. HOW CAN I HELP THEM?

The Foundation has a team of experts ready to help your clients help with COVID-19 Relief and achieve their charitable goals. Visit our [FAQ page for professional advisors](#) to learn more contact Ashley Coldiron at 501-372-1116 for more help.