



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 are 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?

- **Phase 1 (March 19 – April 14):** In the short term, the Fund provided rapid-response grants of \$1,000 to nonprofit organizations working on the front lines. This critical funding enabled those organizations to maintain operations and support the increased demand for services. [See the list of grantees.](#)
- **Phase 2 (April 15 – June 15):** In the intermediate term, the Fund awarded Phase Two Adaptation Grants of up to \$25,000 to nonprofits and community organizations. These larger grants focused 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. [See the list of grantees.](#)

Following Phase 2 point, we paused our grantmaking from the COVID-19 Relief Fund to assess the ongoing impact of COVID and determine what additional needs emerged. To best make this assessment, we [surveyed phase one and two grantees and partnered with the Clinton School of Public Service and UALR School of Public Affairs to conduct a formal survey of nonprofits](#) (the survey was also open for any Arkansas nonprofit.) In addition, Foundation staff participated in learning calls, funder meetings and informational interviews with key leaders in various nonprofit sub-sectors. Although there were many needs across all sub-sectors that continued to surface, several of the major themes we identified included:

- Disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in communities of color
 - Support for individual financial needs, including housing and essential household expenses
 - Support for small businesses
- **Phase 3 (June 15 – ongoing):** After our first two phases of grantmaking, the Fund has been focused on making targeted grants to a few key issues that have emerged as the pandemic has continued, including housing, support for small businesses, and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in communities of color.

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.

WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR GRANTMAKING?

- 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:
 - 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.

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 or 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 deadline to apply for COVID-19 Relief Fund grants has passed. We'll continue to post updates about grants that have been awarded and future opportunities to apply. To receive updates about future funding opportunities, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, or [sign up for our nonprofit newsletter here](#).

I AM A NONPROFIT, HOW CAN I USE THE GRANTS?

Nonprofit organizations may use funding to support their clients' needs, cover costs associated with decreased staffing or remote working due to quarantine/social distancing, provide mental health programming for clients or staff; or coordinate/facilitate in-kind goods and donations to sites and organizations that provide human services and serve vulnerable populations. *This is not an exhaustive list, and other needs will be considered.*

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, if you want to 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 your credit card number you provide as often as you would like.

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 501-372-1166 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 or Contact Lindsey Simmons at 501-372-1116 for more help.