



Pinellas CARES Nonprofit Support Fund

Pinellas Community Foundation is helping coordinate the County's nonprofit granting efforts to support county residents most affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Pinellas CARES Nonprofit Support Fund is the County's response fund meant to address the needs of our most vulnerable residents whose health and well-being have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. The fund has been provided \$30 million to augment nonprofit response efforts providing critical care of community residents.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We will exhibit **transparency** with all transactions from this fund while providing an opportunity for the community to observe and participate in our collective efforts

We will share **accountability** with our grantees for the outcomes of this project and provide an opportunity to learn from both success and failure

We will act with **urgency** to ensure funds are deployed to organizations in a responsible yet rapid fashion to meet critical needs without unnecessary delay

We will ensure **accessibility** to nonprofits of a variety of sizes and abilities to ensure funds reach deeply into the community to provide necessary support

We will apply a **lens of equity** to deliberations and decisions to ensure the needs of our most vulnerable community members are addressed

FUNDING PRIORITIES

This fund will focus on:

Providing greater access to food to address the sudden increase in food-insecure households

Addressing the behavioral health needs of the community to promote good mental health and resiliency in light of increased isolation and stress

Supporting the availability of legal aid for residents who require assistance to understand and protect their rights

Improving housing stability of individuals and families in response to record unemployment and underemployment



POPULATION PRIORITIES

- Communities of color
- Children and the elderly
- People experiencing homelessness
- Persons employed in high-risk pandemic response jobs (e.g. front-line workers, nurses, medical housekeeping staff, nonprofit employees, law-enforcement, first responders etc.)
- Residents with language barriers
- Persons with disabilities
- Low-income families

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Nonprofit organization as defined in IRS Code Section 501(c)3
- Identified needs are Coronavirus/COVID-19-related
- Demonstrated ability to offer expanded services addressing one of the fund's priorities
- Known commitment to addressing the needs of identified priority populations
- Trusted ability to accomplish organizational mission
- Proven performance on prior commitments to the community
- Exhibits a defined plan to safely deliver services (e.g. ensuring social distance)
- Assurance that funds granted will not supplant existing program funding sources, but will expand capacity or extend current programming
- Expected ability to expend funds by December 31, 2020

APPLICATIONS AND AWARDS

To more rapidly meet community needs, applications for funding will be considered on a **rolling basis** until the fund is exhausted. Applications are available via the [PCF Grant Portal](#).

All awards and denials will be published weekly online at pinellascf.org/CARES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the Pinellas CARES Nonprofit Support Fund?

A: The Pinellas CARES Nonprofit Support Fund is a Pinellas Community Foundation fund created by a \$30 million grant from Pinellas County Government meant to help the critical nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to the most vulnerable of our local residents being affected by the COVID-19 public health crisis.

Q: How much assistance is available through this fund?

A: The initial allocation of funding was \$30 million. This total comes from a grant from Pinellas County Government utilizing funds allocated through the CARES Act.



Q: What organizations are able to receive assistance?

A: Nonprofit 501(c)3 organizations will be eligible to receive assistance.

Q: Are there specific agencies that the Fund will support?

A: Funding allocations will be prioritized generally among the following four categories: food, behavioral health, legal aid, and housing.

Q: What are some examples of uses of the funding?

A: Examples of funding usage by category are:

- **Food**

- Providing greater access to emergency food by increasing the number of mobile food pantry events in the community
- Expanding the volume of food provided by local food banks and pantries to people in need
- Providing home-delivered meals to people who do not have available transportation or who are better served at home for health safety reasons
- Increasing availability of shelf-stable staples to meet regular family nutrition requirements

- **Behavioral Health**

- Increasing the accessibility of behavioral health services by upgrading technology to expand telehealth capacity
- Providing technology to people who cannot otherwise access telehealth services
- Expansion of virtual support groups for special populations affected by COVID-19, such as first responders
- Expanding access to behavioral health services for front-line workers
- Increasing availability of substance-use treatment services
- Expanding medication-assisted substance-use treatment services, especially for people who cannot continue such treatment due to loss of employment or benefits

- **Legal Aid and Housing**

- Increasing the availability of legal aid services so residents can assess and protect their rights to fair housing
- Expanding legal aid services to assist tenants in negotiating settlements with landlords to avoid eviction
- Augmenting availability of mediation programming for appropriate resolution of landlord-tenant disputes
- Replacement of homeless shelter equipment due to COVID-19 related safety concerns (e.g. mattresses, pillows, etc.)
- Acquisition of PPE to augment the safety of service providers and residents in programs addressing homelessness

Q: Is the funding limited to certain cities or counties?

A: Funding is limited to programs and services serving residents of Pinellas County.

Q: How do individuals get help from the Fund?

A: The Fund will support existing programs and organizations that provide direct support to individuals. This fund will **not** provide financial assistance to individuals themselves.



Q: How will the fund be managed?

A: Pinellas Community Foundation has over 50 years of experience managing assets provided in trust by the community. The Funds will be held in trust and checking accounts for the sole purpose of distribution under the guidelines which established the fund. When funds are awarded to an organization, they will be provided after the organization signs a grant agreement certifying their compliance with various requirements. The funds will be transferred to the organization via check.

Q: Who is making decisions about grant awards?

A: A diverse committee comprised of invested community members and organizations will be reviewing applications and making recommendations for funding to the CEO of Pinellas Community Foundation. Committee recommendations to deny a funding request are final and will not be reconsidered. If an application is denied, an applicant may decide to apply again if deficiencies can be corrected.

Community volunteers, PCF Board of Governors members, the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County, as well as members of the Tampa Bay Resiliency Fund (Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg, and United Way Suncoast) will be involved in the committee decision-making process, ensuring strong community-led decisions and information sharing.

Q: My organization has never received a grant from federal funding before, can you help?

A: Pinellas Community Foundation has retained the services of a well-qualified program design and evaluation expert to provide technical assistance to organizations to ensure success in accomplishing objectives of this grant funding.

Q: How can I get more information on applying for assistance?

A: For more information visit www.pinellascf.org/CARES, or call Pinellas Community Foundation – 727-531-0058.