

Inland Empire COVID-19 Response: **IE Funders Alliance Rapid Response Fund**

The **IE Funders Alliance Rapid Response Fund** has been established by the Funders Alliance of San Bernardino & Riverside Counties to provide critical and timely support for nonprofits providing services in Riverside and San Bernardino counties in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the negative impact it will have on vulnerable people and communities.

The Crisis

This pandemic will be devastating to those already teetering on the edge of survival in the Inland Empire. The nonprofits that serve, provide for, organize, and advocate for these communities are equally at risk. Especially in the Inland Empire, they already do more with less, making miracles happen everyday. Now our nonprofit leaders are confronted with challenges ranging from how to provide services, to how to protect their own staff, to planning for a recession.

Much like our hospitals and clinics are bracing for a dramatic increase in patients in need of acute care, our social service nonprofits must brace for the same, with potentially less contributions to support this important work, as the market continues to decline. Many nonprofits have little cash on hand to ride out declines in income. Many are not equipped for remote work or capable of delivering a full range of client services remotely. Child-care centers like Head Start that rely on government contracts that pay only after proof of daily attendance will risk losing that funding. So too will elder-care organizations, job-training programs, and meal-delivery services. All will face increases in demand for services without the accompanying revenue that for-profit businesses could charge.

We know that our Inland Empire nonprofits are up to the challenge. But they will need philanthropic support to weather this storm.

The Response

For foundations interested in collaborating on a response to the impact of COVID-19 and the recession, the IE Funders Alliance Rapid Response Fund is a targeted and strategic vehicle for philanthropic participation. The Fund will continue for the duration of this crisis, and may remain in place for future rapid response grantmaking in the Inland Empire.

The Fund will provide the following types of support to nonprofit organizations:

1. First Wave: Core operating grants to eligible backbone organizations that serve as information and service hubs for networks of nonprofit organizations. These grants will facilitate their ability to inform, organize, and mobilize their networks. Grants to be distributed during the period of March 23-31, 2020 to pre-selected organizations.
2. Second Wave: Core operating grants to eligible nonprofits serving the populations outlined in table below. Funding is intended to support community-based organization operations for nonprofits serving vulnerable populations and who can present a clear case of direct impact due to the medical or economic effects of the pandemic.

Geographic Focus	Inland Empire - all of Riverside & San Bernardino Counties
Fund Objective	To support nonprofit organizations that serve vulnerable populations to respond to increased need and decreased funding/revenue due to Covid-19 and the economic impacts.
Population Focus	The Inland Empire's most vulnerable and marginalized communities, including low-income seniors and families, homeless, veterans, households under poverty line, immigrants and refugees, youth, people with disabilities, medically high-risk individuals, and the uninsured.
Grantmaking Focus	Grants are designed to support the core operations and capacity of nonprofit organizations. Funding will be provided to community-based organizations that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve vulnerable populations • Can illustrate increased need and/or economic impact due to the pandemic • Offer critical services during the pandemic, such as: health education, child care, food distribution, shelter, family supports, and advocacy to address related barriers to support.
Grant Amounts	Grant awards will range from \$10,000 to \$25,000, depending on the scope of impact and services offered.
Application Process	A two-step application process: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill out the IE Pooled Fund Intake Form eligibility survey at this link: https://socialinnovation.ucr.edu/IE-covid19 2. Complete the short six-question funding application at this link: https://forms.gle/umf3a84daqWjBhpc7
Fundraising Goal	\$1,000,000
Administration	The Fund will be housed at the Inland Empire Community Foundation (the Funders Alliance's fiscal sponsor). No administrative fees will be charged within the first four weeks of operation - March 23-April 17, 2020.
Grant Award Decisions	Applications accepted on an ongoing basis, with response within 15 days.
Reporting	Reporting requirements will be minimal, with information collected about numbers served and impact on the community and/or nonprofit operations.

Strength in Coming Together

When we work together and leverage our efforts we can keep our nonprofits strong, so they in turn can serve our community. We invite foundations committed to the Inland Empire to join together in this effort. By pooling our funds, we can reduce both grant administration and grant application burden on all participants, which in turn will allow us to support our nonprofits faster.

Please reach out to:

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