

Greater Twin Cities COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund: Funding Opportunity

CORE FAQs

What are the review criteria?

Applications will be evaluated by a review team and assessed based on the immediate response effort and unique capabilities in serving populations disproportionately impacted and/or vulnerable populations. Consideration will be given to geographic distribution of grants.

How are you defining immediate needs?

We are defining immediate needs as services and resources needed at this point in time to address an individual's basic needs and help them maintain stability during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:

- Food and essential household supplies like diapers, toiletries, cleaning supplies or soap.
- Medical safety equipment such as protective masks and thermometers.
- Housing.
- Financial assistance to pay rent/mortgage, utilities or groceries gift cards.
- Assistance to clients to access healthcare, behavioral health and/or benefits (SNAP, unemployment).
- Childcare for emergency, social service, and frontline workers and other priority populations.

When will we hear if our organization has been funded?

Applications are due on Wednesday, April 22 at 5pmCST. Decisions will be communicated by Wednesday, May 13 at 5pmCST. We will work to make payment as timely as possible.

Why are funds to be used in the next six months?

Funds are for short-term and immediate efforts to address community needs, specifically in response to the impact of COVID-19.

If my organization received funding in a prior Greater Twin Cities United Way COVID-19 grant wave, are we eligible?

Yes, organizations that may have received prior Greater Twin Cities United Way COVID-19 grants in earlier funding waves are eligible to apply.

Can we apply more than once if we need additional funding?

No, but applicants can describe and prioritize multiple bodies of work that may be pertinent to community needs in their application. Resources are limited and Greater Twin Cities United Way aims to equitably distribute resources across our region and to the array of communities that most need support at this time.

How flexible will your grants be considering our current environment?

Grants should be dedicated to efforts that aim to address immediate needs due to the COVID-19 crisis, aligned with these focus areas:

- Organizations that have expanded existing services to support people's immediate needs during the pandemic.
- Organizations that have pivoted or changed their services to support people's immediate needs during the pandemic.
- New partnerships that are, by working in collaboration, able expand reach to support more people's immediate needs during the pandemic.

What will be the reporting requirements?

Our priority is to disburse funds to your organization as quickly as possible and allow you to focus on the crisis right now. We will ask for reporting in November 2020. This will include narrative or qualitative information on how funds were used and impacted your organization and estimated reach of the funds in supporting your work.

OTHER FAQs

Eligibility

If our organization is not a 501c3, can we work with a fiscal sponsor to apply for a grant?

Use of fiscal sponsors is permitted. Fiscal sponsors must meet the eligibility requirements outlined below.

What kinds of organizations are NOT eligible to apply?

- Individuals.
- For-profit organizations.
- Private foundations.
- Government agencies and units of government are not eligible to apply. Public schools, cities, counties and state agencies are considered units of government and are therefore not eligible to apply. Government agencies can be partners, just not lead applicants.
- Organizations that require membership in certain religions or advance a particular religious faith. (Faith-based organizations are eligible if they welcome and serve all members of the community regardless of religious belief and have 501(c)(3) status).

What is the intended geographical distribution of grants?

There is no formal target. GTCUW is committed to funding across the 9-county metro region of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott and western Washington counties.

Application Process

Do I need an account in the GTCUW online funding portal?

No. Applicants will apply via Microsoft Forms. This is to make as simplified an application process as possible during this crisis.

Can we speak with GTCUW staff about our application in advance of submitting it?

Please carefully review the funding guidelines. Applicants are welcome to call or email rfp@gtcuw.org or 612-340-7691 during normal business hours to discuss any questions. Staff will not comment on the likelihood of an organization receiving funding based on their proposed project, nor can we help shape or write applications.

What documents do we need to submit as part of our application?

Prior to receiving funding, organizations NOT currently funded within our Holistic Grantmaking portfolio will be asked to submit their most recent audit (if audited) or their most recent IRS Form 990 for financial review. Your organization will be contacted for this due diligence should you be selected based on your application.

Do I have to enter and upload all our information at one time, or can I start and save the application?

Once you have entered your responses into the application form, you will NOT be able to save your responses. We have selected to use a simple Microsoft Form in order to simplify the application process. Please download the application questions here and review. Input your responses when you are ready to submit.

Timeline

How much planning time is allowed after funds are awarded toward the use of dollars?

There is no set time for planning. Funds are for short-term and immediate efforts to address community needs, specifically in response to the impact of COVID-19.

Definitions

How does GTCUW define direct service?

Our intent with this funding opportunity is to provide resources to organizations that are directly providing services or resources to people in our community. Individual applicants must be direct service nonprofits. Partnership applications must include at least one direct service organization.

What are GTCUW's impact area long term outcomes?

Our Community Impact work is toward a set of long-term outcomes for what we hope to see in our community. See [HERE](#) for a description. These long-term outcomes fall into the areas of educational success, economic opportunity and household stability.

How does GTCUW define lead organization in the case of organizations applying in partnership?

For organizations applying as a partnership to this grant opportunity, we define the lead organization as the organization that is applying and intends to play a leadership role in the partnership.