



UNITED IN A TIME OF CRISIS

LIVE UNITED

Over the past few months, we have all been challenged to change the way we live, work, and connect with each other. The immediate needs of many in our community have been threatened more than ever. United Way nonprofit partner agencies continue to serve unprecedented numbers of clients due to COVID-19. Our role is to ensure these partner agencies have the resources they need to effectively respond and efficiently provide needed health and human services, especially during a time of crisis.

In March, Heart of Arkansas United Way established the COVID-19 Response Fund dedicated to increasing resilience among our most vulnerable individuals and families. This fund provided mini-grants to organizations addressing the needs of individuals and families experiencing COVID-19 related hardship

primarily due to temporary unemployment, lost income or unexpected expenses related and due to COVID-19. 100 percent of donations directly supported partner agencies responding to COVID-19 needs.

United Way made 17 COVID-19 mini-grants, providing critical services including:

- Assistance with rent, utilities, transportation and basic living costs.
- Food, personal hygiene, cleaning supplies and other essential items.
- Technology support to provide mental and medical telehealth services.
- Personal Protective Equipment to keep both agency staff and clients safe.
- Safe shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or other crisis.

EXCERPTS FROM COVID-19 MINI-GRANT APPLICATIONS

"The financial need of our low-income [clients] right now is URGENT. Most importantly, when we asked 'If we could provide you with extra funds at this time, what is the #1 thing you need funds for?', 91.2% said 'food'."

"The majority impact in the area we serve have been a loss in income. A loss in shelter due to lack of steady income coming into household. No food coming into homes due to this lost of income during COVID-19. Personal protection and sanitizing supplies. Our organization has worked hard during this pandemic to provide low income families and seniors with food, utility assistance, and cleaning/sanitizer to get them through this crisis."

"Health and safety matters are essential. There is a continuing need for food each day in order to keep our guests healthy, safe, and content while dealing with every level of trauma at this time. The need for food and supplies at the shelter has increased significantly. Toilet paper, cleaning supplies, and hand sanitizer are scarce...We also will need to immediately re-start our support groups to provide counseling. We have identified a need for two laptop-tablets so we can continue social distancing as we offer essential support groups, counseling, and other services."