



Update on Wave Six of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund

July 14, 2020

To our donors,

Each of you chose to support the efforts of the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund by making a donation to this ambitious statewide humanitarian relief effort.

The Fund was formally established April 6, 2020 and soon afterwards, we began grantmaking across the state. Our commitment was to provide uninterrupted support during the immediate crisis; we have delivered on that promise. Thankfully, your generous donations will allow us to stretch support over a longer timeframe than originally contemplated. We have just completed Wave 6 of grantmaking awarding 13 grants to our community foundation partners. These dollars will further support the relief efforts of 100 nonprofits across the Commonwealth.

Our final grantmaking meeting for Wave 7 grants is scheduled at the end of July. It is anticipated these funds will provide support to those in need across the state through September 2020. A heartfelt thanks again for making this possible.

This week's update will highlight four of our community foundation partners.

Impact Spotlight: Wave 6

Greater Lowell Community Foundation:

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation serves the needs of 20 cities and towns in northern Middlesex County. The total population encompassed by the Greater Lowell Community Foundation is 447,000, of which 39,000 live in poverty. Needs are particularly acute in the city of Lowell, with a population of approximately 110,000 and a poverty rate of 21%.

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation's (GLCF) COVID-19 relief efforts are focused on supporting low-income, homeless, immigrant, and disabled populations with food and other essential services. With funds from MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, the Greater Lowell Community Foundation has thus far supported nonprofit organizations in the region with 60 grants, including:

UTEC serves justice-involved young adults in Lowell, Lawrence, and Haverhill through programs including street outreach, transitional coaching, and workforce development through social enterprises such as Café UTEC. [UTEC's social enterprises have lost approximately \\$400k in revenue](#) due to the pandemic but with support from GLCF and the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, UTEC was able to continue paying stipends as well as deliver essential supplies to young adults enrolled in their programs. The majority reported that having their stipend and food/essential deliveries had a positive impact on their family, mental health, and sense of security. MA COVID-



19 Relief Fund dollars will also support UTEC as they bring young adults back to work at Café UTEC and their commercial kitchens. Upon reopening, their traditional business model of catering and events shifted to focus on emergency food assistance for families, frontline workers and seniors facing food insecurity in the Merrimack Valley and beyond - with a goal of providing 1,000 meals per week for 5 months.

The Minute Man Arc for Human Services, Inc. is a human services organization which supports 850 adults and children with disabilities. The group home in which COVID-19 positive patients with disabilities reside, requires staff on site 24 hours per day. Grant funding allowed Minute Man Arc to safely meet the needs of their clients by paying hazard pay to 75 hourly staff who cared for COVID-positive patients.

Learn more about the work of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation [here](#).

Cambridge Community Foundation:

Through its partnership with the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, the Cambridge Community Foundation is serving the needs of vulnerable populations in the cities of Cambridge, Medford, and Somerville. These three communities are home to 258,000 people, of which 31,000 live in poverty. Furthermore, about a quarter (23%) are foreign-born and just under a third (31%) speak a language other than English at home.

The COVID-19 relief efforts of the Cambridge Community Foundation are focused on supporting those who live, work, study, create or worship in Cambridge, through both grants to individuals, families, small businesses, and organizations, as well as funding nonprofits in Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford that address the urgent needs of vulnerable populations, frontline workers, and Cambridge's creative ecosystem. With funds from MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, Cambridge Community Foundation has provided 14 grants to nonprofit organizations in the region, including:

West Medford Community Center (WMCC) works to connect the diverse people of West Medford and the Mystic River Valley through social, educational, cultural, health and recreational activities. The organization has roots dating back to the 1940s, built to serve the needs and interests of the African American community. Recognizing that the pandemic has increased the sense of fear, anxiety, and depression, grant funding is being used to support the emotional and mental health needs of 150 vulnerable individuals as they deal with social isolation.

Enroot Inc. supports immigrant youth including English learners to achieve academic, career and personal success with out-of-school experiences. Most of the students come from low-income households who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Enroot is using grant funding to meet basic needs of 45 immigrant students and their families.

Learn more about the work of the Cambridge Community Foundation [here](#).



Permanent Endowment for Martha's Vineyard:

The Permanent Endowment for Martha's Vineyard serves the needs on the island of Martha's Vineyard. This encompasses 17,000 people, of which 1,300 live in poverty.

The Endowment's COVID-19 relief efforts are focused on providing support to the Island's residents including its immigrant community, most vulnerable to economic disruptions caused by the pandemic, including food and housing insecurity. The Endowment has made 3 grants to nonprofit organizations on the island with financial support from the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, including:

Island Grown Initiative (IGI) aims to build a regenerative and equitable food system on Martha's Vineyard. With a MA COVID-19 Relief Fund grant, IGI is providing meals to low income children and their families this summer. Due to the pandemic, the number of families dependent on school-provided meals increased threefold. IGI is working to meet the growing need over the summer when schools are not serving meals, and will operate three pick up locations as well as delivery to remote locations such as to the Native American Wampanoag community in Aquinnah.

MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust (MVFPT) supports the island's small-boat, owner-operated fishing fleets. The island's wholesale fish market has been greatly impacted as restaurants were closed due to COVID-19, resulting in local fishing fleets being out of work as the island experienced increased food insecurity. Grant funding is allowing MVFPT to purchase fresh scallops from local fishermen and distribute to local food pantries and other organizations that provide food for 250-375 low income, immigrant and elderly residents for 6-7 weeks.

Learn more about the work of the Permanent Endowment for Martha's Vineyard [here](#).

Watertown Community Foundation:

The Watertown Community Foundation is focused on supporting the needs of the 36,000 residents of Watertown, of which 8% live in poverty and 21% are foreign-born.

The COVID-19 relief efforts of Watertown Community Foundation are focused on supporting residents of working families and households in Watertown disproportionately affected by the pandemic, including those impacted by food and housing insecurity. With funds from MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, the Watertown Community Foundation has made 2 grants to nonprofit organizations including:

Metro West Collaborative Development, Inc. is a community development nonprofit focused on improving the quality of life in Metro West neighborhoods. Grant funding from the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund is being used to provide emergency rental assistance to households in



Watertown directly affected by COVID-19. Fifty households who have experienced income loss from the pandemic and are in rental arrears, will receive rental assistance from these grants.

Learn more about the work of the Watertown Community Foundation [here](#).

To view a current list of nonprofit organizations supported by the grantees of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund click [here](#).

Wishing you and yours health and wellbeing in these troubling times,

With Gratitude,

Lauren Baker, First Lady of Massachusetts, Advisory Committee

Joanna Jacobson, One8 Foundation Trustee & President, Advisory Committee

Jonathan Raymond, Executive Director, MA COVID-19 Relief Fund