



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

July 28, 2020

To our donors,

We write to update you on Wave 7 grantmaking which represents the last major grant wave of the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund. The Advisory Committee approved \$4.36mm to support grants to 13 of the community foundations in the Commonwealth and an additional statewide grant to Project Bread, bringing the total disbursement of funds to date to \$31.2mm. This seventh final wave of grants to the community foundations will support 125 nonprofits as they continue their robust relief services.

The objective of the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund has been to provide relief funds across the state without interruption, which we have done every two weeks since April. The grants approved in Wave 7 will allow nonprofits to continue their work through the month of September meaning the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund will have provided support for six months. We are so grateful to all of you who have made this sustained humanitarian relief effort possible.

To date we have granted \$31.2mm of the \$31.4mm raised. Community foundations have been sensitive to their local context and resource availability, using the grants from this Fund to fill in for critical local needs. For some regions this has meant a focus on housing insecurity as some families struggle to make rent payments, and for others it has meant concentrating grants to support generally vulnerable populations including immigrants with a variety of supports. As has been true throughout the Fund, grants were made available to increase food availability throughout the state.

We want to recognize the hard work of the community foundations' staff who have made a concerted, continuous effort to identify and vet local nonprofits serving very particular populations with specific needs. Nonprofits that serve Latinx, Cambodian, Black, Haitian, and Portuguese communities, as well as nonprofits serving LGBTQ, elderly and veteran communities, to name a few, have been partners to the community foundations throughout the state. Community Action Councils and housing development nonprofits that can intercede to provide housing assistance have also received funding from our community foundation partners. Local YMCAs and other youth serving organizations working hard to keep children engaged, particularly children of essential workers, have received grants throughout the life of the Fund.

A silver lining of this work has been the friendships and partnerships nurtured locally and across regions. Our community foundation partners have engaged in learning calls with one another, debriefing initiatives, advocating for their communities, sharing information and approaches and helping one another problem solve. All have commented on their intent to maintain these robust alliances long after the Fund has sunset.



Our last letter to you all will come in September when remaining residual grant funds are fully dispersed and grant reporting complete. Although the Fund will soon close, we encourage all to visit MACovid19ReliefFund.org to find how you can continue to make an impact on those in need by directly supporting our community foundation partners.

Wishing you some relief from the heat and time with your families,

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