

HCCF Grantmaking Response to coronavirus (COVID-19)

In these unprecedented times, the Hancock County Community Foundation (HCCF) feels compelled to re-evaluate the allocation of resources to better support the rapidly-changing needs facing our community.

The Annual Grant Cycle was launched in early February in a different health and economic climate than what we face today. Due to the unexpected challenges expressed by many of our nonprofits locally over the last couple of weeks, we are postponing the 2020 Annual Grant Cycle indefinitely and working on ways to directly and proactively respond to immediate needs related to COVID-19.

Any applications submitted for the Annual Grant Cycle as of 4:30 p.m. today (3/17/2020) will be evaluated within the context of current events; the interview/site visit component has been eliminated. We will communicate grant decisions soon. Any applications that are started but incomplete will not be evaluated at this time. As of now, we anticipate a return to the normal Annual Grant Cycle process in 2021.

In addition to leveraging existing resources, HCCF is creating a temporary pass-through fund called “Heart for Hancock: A Community Relief Fund” to raise funds to support local organizations most impacted by COVID-19 and whose clients are the most vulnerable to the repercussions. We have invited corporate partners to support the fund and will promote the opportunity to the community at large.

We need your guidance as we determine how to best grant these funds. We will respectfully ask for 5-10 minutes of your time to complete a survey later this week making us aware of your organization’s most pressing needs in the midst of this pandemic.

While COVID-19 is creating immediate challenges for nonprofit organizations, we also anticipate longer-term consequences. We will ask nonprofit leaders to complete this survey again in 30 days and once more in 90 days to gauge how needs are changing and tailor our response appropriately.

As always, please don’t hesitate to reach out to Katie Ottinger (text/call 317-430-4354 or email kottinger@giveHCgrowHC.org) to ask questions or share concerns you are facing. We will continue to communicate with updates on processes and decisions.

Additionally, we have created a page of nonprofit-specific resources [here](#) that we will update frequently.

Thank you for your understanding and for your selfless, hard work for our county.

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