Healthcare Institutions Targeted in New Grant Round; COVID-19 Response Grants Aid Hospitals
Round Four of Grants Total $226,000 to Community Organizations

Springfield—A fourth round of grants, totaling $226,000, from the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley has been announced, with healthcare and medical centers in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties receiving the largest portion of the new round as they battle the impact of the disease on the region with surging admissions to hospitals.

Grants were also directed to youth-serving organizations and to programs providing food access to those impacted by the crisis. To date, the Response Fund has granted more than $1.3 million to local organizations.

Grants were made to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield; Baystate Noble Hospital in Westfield; Baystate Wing Hospital in Palmer; and Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield (through the Baystate Health Foundation); Holyoke Medical Center in Holyoke; Mercy Hospital in Springfield; Shriners Hospital for Children in Springfield; and Cooley Dickinson Hospital Health Care Corp. in Northampton.

Also receiving grants are the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield; the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls; the Center for Human Development, for its Family Outreach program in Amherst; the Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center in Holyoke; Franklin County DIAL/SELF in Greenfield; Friends of Children in Hadley; and Our Community Table/Westfield Soup Kitchen in Westfield.

Since launching the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts has raised $3.6 million from 350 individuals, families, foundations and companies in the region and outside of the region.

According to Katie Allan Zobel, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, “As the impact on our region unfolds, more urgent needs are emerging and the health care systems in the three counties have been hit particularly hard. These grants to the healthcare institutions in the three-county area recognize the critical importance of the healthcare infrastructure in Western Massachusetts. This latest round also targets programs that are working with isolated youth of low-income families who are particularly vulnerable during this crisis. Grants also help to provide more food and nutrition access to those in need.”

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COVID-19 Response Round Four Grants

Zobel said that with the announcement that public schools will be closed for the remainder of the academic year, the Community Foundation will be conducting additional outreach to determine needs going forward for young people in the region. “We are striving to be strategic in our grant making, and needs related to youth, who are increasingly vulnerable, are emerging as a priority,” Zobel said.

The Response Fund was established to provide emergency grants to community nonprofit organizations serving the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic in Western Massachusetts.

The Community Foundation welcomes additional donations to the COVID-19 Response Fund for the Pioneer Valley. Gifts can be made online at: www.communityfoundation.org/covid19.