



Grantmaking in Response to COVID-19

The Waco Foundation Board of Trustees recognizes that the unprecedented need presented by COVID-19 presents significant challenges to our local nonprofit sector and the community. The Foundation remains committed to previous investments related to well-vetted Foundation priorities which are already funded as initiatives of the Board of Trustees.

We anticipate that by far the largest amount of assistance will be provided by public sources through a wide variety of vehicles. Waco Foundation is working with the nonprofit community to understand need and trying to fast track nonprofits' ability to access federal resources. We are also evaluating and responding to the need for charitable assistance but encourage nonprofits to seek access to the large set of federal aid available.

Nonprofits that have not already done so are encouraged to look at current and upcoming stimulus packages being offered through the SBA, Workforce Development, and other federal and state authorities, for support.

The new discretionary grant guidelines for FYE2021 were developed in response to Waco Foundation's mission of promoting solutions to community challenges with the initial focus on the most vulnerable populations to suffer as a result of the pandemic. Waco Foundation will continue to adhere to its mission, vision, and values, but expects to accommodate a wide variety of requests to address large scale and serious needs that are outside traditional grant funding needs and programming.

Support Options for Eligible, Charitable 501(c)(3) Nonprofits

The Foundation will suspend its plans for a traditional grant cycle (and traditional requests) for FYE2021 until it is clear that emergency resources are no longer needed. Instead, the Foundation will offer the following:

Phase 1 - To Begin April 23 (by invitation only)

1. Safety Net Distributors & Support Services (grants of up to \$25,000):

The Foundation will offer operating support grants/contracts to select eligible emergency care organizations whose demand for services has remained consistent or increased as a result of COVID-19. These grants are offered on an invitation only basis.

Priority consideration has been given to nonreligious organizations that meet three or more of the following criteria:

- have established programs for distributing funds to/for low income populations in need (e.g. housing assistance, utilities, medicine, medical support, childcare)
- have case management staff
- currently work within/with the city's existing network for tracking clients (HMIS)
- have established successful protocols for assessing individual/family need
- have established, proven connections with area vendors/companies

First tier

Organizations experiencing some of the highest level of demand for basic services (access to food, housing assistance, and utility assistance) are eligible to receive both general operating and capacity building (technical, IT, human or other resources) funds to support their delivery of services.

Second tier

Other agencies that provide support services to populations that may need assistance accessing services may be eligible for up to \$15,000 in operating support (nonprofit must provide proof of need).

2. Repayable Grants (Bridging Capital):

The Foundation will offer bridging capital to safety net and support service providers that have applied, or are in the process of applying, for assistance through the CARES Act bill or the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan (or both) and/or are the regular recipient of other funding/contracts for services.

Priority will be given to previously identified safety net distributors and support service organizations that operate year round (including conducting operations/planning activities), have regular paid staff and can demonstrate their normal stream of income or fundraising has been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

Applicants may submit a request after initiating a conversation with Foundation staff. The Foundation estimates that loan funds will range between \$5,000 –\$25,000, but has the discretion to vary these amounts. Priority funding and amount sizes will take into consideration the applicant and their role in addressing pressing community need(s). Consideration will also be given to the applicant's ability to repay funds over time.

Phase 2 – To Begin by May 30

3. Critical Needs Small Grants (grants of up to \$5,000):

The Foundation will offer grants to smaller organizations that have temporarily put more than 80% of their operations on hold/cannot act due to the nature of COVID-19 and engagement restrictions. Small nonprofits are defined as those with one to three staff members and an annual budget of \$60,000 or less.

4. Critical Needs Medium Sized Grants (grants may vary based on organization's situation, maximum is \$25,000)

All other nonprofits that do not fit the aforementioned granting categories are eligible to submit a request for funding via the Critical Needs Funding Program. Funds may be used to address general operating and capacity building support needs, including some IT products that may be needed for remote work, etc.

5. Capacity Building Support

The Foundation will also maintain its regular capacity building program which is designed to offer situation specific professional and organization supports to key staff and board members. Capacity Building support funding from this category may not exceed \$2,000 and award amounts are dependent on the number of requests received.

Phase 3 – To Begin approximately July 1

As need and funding exists, Waco Foundation will consider:

- Additional Critical Needs Grants for organizations that provide relief for individuals (once direct federal support has been expended)
- Additional repayable loans (bridging capital) to nonprofits