

Seven Ways to Support Grantees Right Now

- **Proactively ask grantees whether they need to adjust reporting dates, budgets, and objectives for grants. And listen.** Grantees should be able to suspend and/or modify deliverables and deadlines without prolonged renegotiations (perhaps through direct contact with program officers with minimal paperwork).

Members such as [Maryland State Arts Council](#), [Ausherman Family Foundation](#) and [Bainum Family Foundation](#) are great examples.

- **Shift restricted dollars to general operating support and add one additional year to every grant to ease funding concerns. For project-based grants that set a cap on administrative expenses, remove that cap or increase the percentage.** Recovery will take time and flexible spending will be needed throughout. This allows your grantees to focus on serving communities, not you.

[The Eisner Foundation](#), [Heinz Endowments](#), [New York Life Foundation](#) are all doing this.

- **Open communication channels and build capacity of grantees to go virtual.** In the face of so much uncertainty, consistent communication is the best way to ensure transparency.

[Robert Sterling Clark Foundation](#) is offering virtual office hours and providing subscriptions to videoconferencing platforms.

- **Balance advocacy and more direct responses.** Funders should pursue both direct response and advocacy. Don't pull back on advocacy and organizing because equitable public investment strategies will yield more support to families and programs than philanthropic investments would ever be able to do. Advocates are working to expand the safety net and to include low income families and providers in public funding responses.

See the [extensive list of funders signing on to Council of Foundation's Call to Action](#) and [Groundswell Fund](#) theory of change.

- **Deploy rapid response funds particularly for organizations with deep roots within priority populations, such as:**



- Communities of color
- Seniors and children
- Residents without health insurance and/or access to sick days
- Residents with limited English language proficiency and vulnerable immigrant communities
- Contractual and hourly workers
- Healthcare and service workers

See efforts from Maryland's Community Foundations in [Baltimore](#), [Anne Arundel](#), [Howard](#), and [Greater Washington](#).

For a state-wide collaboration see the [Minnesota Disaster Recovery Fund \(MDRF\) for Coronavirus](#) which has raised \$4.4 million from 28 members in three days.

- **Use Maryland Philanthropy Network to streamline communications with local leaders and develop systems to coordinate offers of support and need.** We are staying in close *virtual* contact with local leaders and partners who are already stretched thin as they serve on the front line of coordination. Join our [weekly calls](#)!
- **Check for updates from [Maryland Philanthropy Network's Resources and Information page](#) to stay up-to-date on the latest news, funding options and tips.**

For inspiration from around the country, see specific examples detailed by [Philanthropy Roundtable](#) and the [National Center for Family Philanthropy](#).