

UNITED WAY COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE 3.23.20

During this difficult time, collectively we are facing new challenges to prioritize the safety and health of everyone in our community. We understand everyone is being impacted in different ways and many are facing unique challenges. The nonprofit sector is working to meet the immediate needs of our most vulnerable neighbors while also facing our own operational challenges.

United Way of Sheboygan County (UWSC) staff and board is committed to serving the community by convening conversations and collaborating across sectors to create/find solutions.

We are grateful, not only to have such a strong social sector in Sheboygan County, but thankful for community members and businesses that are joining us in the efforts to answering the needs of our friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors across the county.

UWSC continues to respond to our community's evolving needs through the Sheboygan County COVID-19 Relief Fund and the COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Network. **Details and updates below.**

INITIAL RESPONSE

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

UWSC launched a Sheboygan County COVID-19 Relief Fund on Saturday, March 14 in response to the World Health Organization declaring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. The fund was created to streamline contributions for COVID-19 needs in Sheboygan County not only to create a coordinated and efficient process for all involved, both organizations and donors, but also to assess the greatest needs of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To donate to this fund, visit <https://uwofsc.rallyup.com/uwsc-covid19-relieffund>
or text 'COVID19-ReliefFund' to 855-202-2100 to receive a link.

Checks can be mailed to United Way of Sheboygan County at 2020 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081.

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE: The function of this local Relief Fund is to provide resources to nonprofit organizations that directly support community members who are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the economic consequences of this outbreak.

100% of the funds raised go directly to the Sheboygan County COVID-19 Relief Fund as UWSC will absorb internal administrative costs and finance the online platform fees. UWSC also contributed \$10,000 from emergency reserve funds to launch this fund.

PHASES: Multiple phases of funding are anticipated to address both the acute needs now and the longer-term impacts of the outbreak and recovery. The primary goal of phase one is to help meet basic needs and help increase resiliency for affected community members. The purpose of the second phase of funding will be to return the local social sector back to normal as quickly as possible to allow the organizations to continue the level of service they have been providing to meet the needs of those they serve.

(Relief Fund continued...)

FUNDING DISTRIBUTION: Funding is open to 501c3 nonprofit organizations, Groups fiscally sponsored by a 501c3 nonprofit organization, Other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution; such as schools, faith-based organizations and other public entities.

COVID-19 NONPROFIT RESPONSE NETWORK

To navigate these uncharted waters, United Way of Sheboygan County convened nonprofits and social sector serving organizations to assess and respond to the needs arising.

UWSC sent out a needs assessment survey to all nonprofit agencies and social sector serving organizations in Sheboygan County on Friday, March 13 and hosted a conference call with nonprofit and social sector leadership on Monday, March 16 and on Tuesday, March 17.

The top community needs identified from the survey and ensuing conversations are:

- Food Access and Security
- Child Care Access
- Financial Assistance (Rental/Mortgage/Utility/Bill Assistance)
- Health

**Phase one of the COVID-19 Relief Fund will be prioritizing these community needs as funding requests are received.*

The top nonprofit needs for operations identified from the survey and ensuing conversations are:

- Funding to replace the donations of products and lost revenue
- Donations of hand sanitizer and thermometers are needed to prioritize the health of volunteer and clients
- Volunteers
 - Volunteers that are older than 65 are encouraged to stay home
 - Volunteer functions must evolve to prioritize social distancing practices suggested by the CDC

NEXT STEPS/FUTURE PLANNING

SHEBOYGAN COUNTY COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

UWSC assembled the Fund Distribution Team to open applications for the first phase of funding on Wednesday, March 18 to nonprofit organizations; the application is available for download online at www.uwofsc.org.

Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak and recovery phases of the crisis. The goal is to move resources quickly and adapt to evolving needs in subsequent funding phases.

More updates to come as applications are received and funds are distributed.

COVID-19 NONPROFIT RESPONSE NETWORK

As the situation evolves, UWSC is encouraging local nonprofits to think differently about how they can fulfil their current needs. Nonprofits are collaborating and partnering to problem-solve in new ways.

UWSC will continue to host weekly calls with nonprofit and social sector serving organizations Tuesdays at 9 a.m. To receive information about the calls and COVID-19 updates, visit <http://bit.ly/COVID19NonprofitSupport>.

COVID-19 VOLUNTEER NEEDS

Anticipating volunteer needs changing, the UWSC's Volunteer Center added a specific area to list these new volunteer opportunities related to the COVID-19 pandemic online at www.uwofsc.org/volunteer.

(Volunteer Needs continued...)

Also, the Volunteer Center will be adding a specific area for nonprofits to list their in-kind needs (donations of tangible items), such as hand sanitizer and other cleaning products. Watch the [Volunteer Center website](#) for this 'wish-list,' which is expected to be live this week.

As we motivate healthy community members to volunteer, continued health and safety for them is our top priority. UWSC staff will continue to update the best practices for volunteering. We encourage everyone to review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines before signing up to volunteer. Find these guidelines at www.cdc.gov.

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESOURCES

United Way 211: 2-1-1 has been activated by Governor Evers in response to COVID-19.

United Way's 2-1-1 is available 24/7 for non-emergency questions about COVID-19 and referrals to local health and human services.

To connect to a specialist:

CALL: 211 or 1-800-924-5514 (Available: 24/7)

TEXT: your ZIP Code to 898211 (Available: M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

CHAT: at 211now.org (Available: M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

You can also text COVID19 to 211-211 to receive links to CDC information about the virus.

Additionally, UWSC is in the process of eliminating the duplication in efforts to collect resources that specifically respond to the growing community needs due to this pandemic. UWSC is exploring options to maintain the most updated list as changes occur in our community's needs in one centralized location. In these efforts, UWSC is collaborating with agencies that already have a resource database, such as United Way's 211, LOVE INC. and Mental Health America in Sheboygan County. Currently, nonprofit professionals and community members can visit UWSC Community Resource list online at www.uwofsc.org/about/community-resources/.

ONGOING STAFF SUPPORT

During these unprecedented times, please reach out to us if you have inquiries on how you can get involved or questions about any of the information above.

- **COVID-19 Nonprofit Response Network** | Kate Baer (kate@uwofsc.org)
- **COVID-19 Relief Fund Applications** | Gina Covelli (gina@uwofsc.org)
- **COVID-19 Relief Fund Contributions** | Emily Kaiser (emilyk@uwofsc.org)
- **COVID-19 Community Resource Marketing & Outreach** | Katelyn Piper (katelyn@uwofsc.org)
- **COVID-19 Volunteer Opportunities** | Lee Anne Raleigh (leeanne@uwofsc.org)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- For immediate questions regarding COVID-19, contact our local public health department at 920-459-0321.
- Visit **[Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(click here\)](#)** to learn about Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreaks and Investigations.
- For the most accurate, timely information visit the **[Center for Disease Control \(CDC\) \(click here\)](#)** website.
- If you are looking for guidance about how to respond as an organization, the CDC has provided **[detailed recommendations \(click here\)](#)**.
- Find additional information about **[211's network response \(click here\)](#)** nationwide.