

# Heinz Endowments awards \$2.3 million to address COVID-19 relief efforts

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By Joyce Gannon / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Heinz Endowments has made \$2.3 million in emergency grants to help nonprofits that are addressing urgent needs throughout the region during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Of the total, \$1 million went to the Emergency Action Fund housed at the Pittsburgh Foundation.

The endowments is one of four large philanthropies in the city that seeded the relief effort, which as of last week totaled more than \$6 million.

The balance of the endowments' emergency funding is going to 14 local nonprofits, including United Way, that are addressing critical community needs including food, medical equipment, housing and assistance for displaced workers and immigrants.

Additional funding is in the pipeline, said Grant Oliphant, president of the endowments.

“We are dealing with a sweeping social and economic catastrophe unlike anything any of us has seen before,” he said. “And our front-line nonprofits and local government have been overwhelmed by demand for essential human services.”

The philanthropy — which hands out about \$70 million annually in grants that support education, health, the environment, the arts, culture and community development — said it has expedited its funding approval process for organizations that are helping the region's most vulnerable during the coronavirus crisis.

Recipients of its first phase of emergency grants include:

- United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, \$350,000 to double staff at the 211 helpline and support families facing job loss and reduced food access;
- Global Links, \$190,000 for sourcing, manufacturing and distributing face masks and other protective equipment;
- 412 Food Rescue, \$170,000 for food distribution and supports;
- Community Kitchen Pittsburgh, \$100,000 for emergency food distribution and feeding programs;
- Casa San Jose, \$100,000 to assist Latinx families and individuals;
- Greater Pittsburgh Arts Council, \$100,000 for the council's Emergency Fund for Artists;
- Bridgeway Capital, \$100,000 to support small businesses;
- Action-Housing, \$70,000 for staffing, food and other emergency supplies;
- Farm to Table Buy Local, \$40,000 for food delivery to affordable housing units including senior communities;
- 1Nation Mentoring, \$35,000 for staff and programs for youth education;
- Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center, \$30,000 for operations and costs associated with staff displacement;
- Bellevue Initiative for Growth and Revitalization, \$25,000 for food delivery in the North Boroughs;
- For Good Pittsburgh, \$20,000 for entrepreneurs based at the Hollander Project, a coworking space and business incubator in Braddock;
- Fishes and Loaves Cooperative Ministries, \$13,000 for fresh food for the elderly and food-insecure families in Hazelwood and Greenfield.

*Joyce Gannon: [jgannon@post-gazette.com](mailto:jgannon@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1580.*