



A CARING, CONNECTED COMMUNITY

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, nonprofit organizations stepped up in incredible ways to support individuals experiencing significant challenges. Private and public funders helped provide resources for community leaders to respond creatively and effectively. The Disaster Recovery Fund report tells the story of what happened in Greater Des Moines' nonprofit sector since the pandemic began, lessons learned along the way, and challenges we must focus on as we move forward.

Following is a summary of the organizations that the Disaster Recovery Fund specifically supported. As our community continues to experience surges of COVID-19 and tremendous stress, now is the time to recognize the critical work nonprofits like these are leading and invest in their capacity to meet our pressing needs. Working together, we can create a brighter and more inclusive future for everyone.

MARCH 2020 - OCTOBER 2021

COMMISSIONED BY THE DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

ISSUES

ORGANIZATIONS RESPONDING

Basic Needs	Nonprofits met families' basic needs when they couldn't find assistance elsewhere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMPACT provided utility assistance for families impacted by COVID-19. • Iowa Legal Aid increased its capacity to provide free legal services to people impacted by the pandemic. • Win for All, a partnership between Broadlawns and United Way of Central Iowa, provided accurate COVID-19 information and access to protective resources. 			
Food Access	Nonprofits expanded efforts and implemented new solutions to meet a spike in food insecurity at the start of the pandemic. They created new systems to move excess food from producers and distributors to those in need in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Des Moines Area Religious Council • Eat Greater Des Moines • Food Bank of Iowa 			
Health Care	Nonprofits changed how they delivered care to meet people's health and mental health care needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polk County Health Department and the Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa trained leaders of ethnic community-based organizations, churches, and other community groups on vaccine information to share effectively within their communities. • Dental Connections purchased critical health equipment to continue to serve patients needing services. • Primary Health Care and Orchard Place launched telehealth services. 			
Housing Stability	Nonprofits collaborated to provide supportive services and to distribute local and federal dollars to help individuals at risk for or experiencing homelessness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home, Inc. distributed \$500,000 in federal rental assistance to more than 249 households over six months. • IMPACT distributed \$28.8 million in rent assistance through the federal Emergency Rental Assistance program. Central Iowa was the first community nationwide to administer both rounds of emergency funding. • Polk County Housing Trust Fund, Iowa Legal Aid, and Polk County Continuum of Care (now Homeward) launched the Justice Center Project at the Polk County Courthouse to stop evictions as families went to court. • Primary Health Care's Centralized Intake team led rapid rehousing efforts with community partners to help those who were homeless. 			
Latinx Community	Nonprofits filled a gap for central Iowans needing assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Éxito, American Friends Service Committee, and Proteus, Inc. distributed more than \$1 million to 4,000 Iowans through the Central Iowa Immigrant Community Support Fund. • Al Éxito launched Compa en Camino (Partners on the Go) to address students' and their families' needs, so youth could stay on track with learning. • The Latinx Project, led by Al Éxito and several partners, is gathering data on the Latinx community and elevating Latinx leaders to decision-making tables. • Proteus partnered with the state to put in measures that protected and supported 3,000 migrant farmworkers from COVID-19 during summer months. 			
Refugee Community	Nonprofits filled a gap for central Iowans needing assistance.	<p>The Refugee Alliance of Central Iowa provided critical COVID-19 information for non-English speaking community members. 20 organizations working with refugee populations received grants to continue to provide case management and support.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="625 1291 909 1648"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Immigrants and Refugees Transition Services (AIRTS) • Al Éxito • Bhutanese Community in Iowa • Child Future International • Iowa Chin Community • Congolese Youth Connect • Genesis Youth Foundation • Hindu Cultural and Educational Center </td> <td data-bbox="925 1291 1209 1648"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Congolese Organization And Center For Healing • Karen Association of Iowa • Latinas Unidas Por Un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.) • Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity • Muslim Community Organization • Nisaa African Family Services </td> <td data-bbox="1226 1291 1536 1648"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwandan Community of Iowa • United Upper Nile South Sudanese Community Food Bank • U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) Des Moines • Brown Brown Foundation • African Community Institute • Shalom Covenant </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Immigrants and Refugees Transition Services (AIRTS) • Al Éxito • Bhutanese Community in Iowa • Child Future International • Iowa Chin Community • Congolese Youth Connect • Genesis Youth Foundation • Hindu Cultural and Educational Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Congolese Organization And Center For Healing • Karen Association of Iowa • Latinas Unidas Por Un Nuevo Amanecer (L.U.N.A.) • Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity • Muslim Community Organization • Nisaa African Family Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rwandan Community of Iowa • United Upper Nile South Sudanese Community Food Bank • U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) Des Moines • Brown Brown Foundation • African Community Institute • Shalom Covenant
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Return to Learn	Nonprofits ensured parents could maintain economic stability while children and youth had a safe and supportive environment to learn and grow.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="625 1659 909 1816"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Éxito • Capitol Park Early Learning Center • Children & Family Urban Movement </td> <td data-bbox="925 1659 1209 1816"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis Youth Foundation • Highland Park Community Development Association • Hispanic Education Resources (Conmigo) </td> <td data-bbox="1226 1659 1536 1816"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakridge Neighborhood Services • Wilkie House </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Éxito • Capitol Park Early Learning Center • Children & Family Urban Movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis Youth Foundation • Highland Park Community Development Association • Hispanic Education Resources (Conmigo) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakridge Neighborhood Services • Wilkie House
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Social-Emotional Support	Nonprofits supported the social, emotional, and mental health needs of youth program participants that were elevated due to COVID-19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis Youth Foundation • Iowa Congolese Organization and Center for Healing • Starts Right Here • Young Women's Resource Center 			