

Welfare Foundation's Approach to the Coronavirus Pandemic

(Updated February 2021)

While many believe that the worst is over, there is little question that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to present our region and the world with unprecedented challenges. The Welfare Foundation is dedicated to working with nonprofit organizations to help improve the quality of life for those living in Delaware and southern Chester County and we are working collaboratively with other funders to address the systemic issues that this pandemic has either created or exacerbated, especially for the most vulnerable among us.

We continue to be inspired by the collective actions of nonprofit organizations and how the sector and community have come together in so many ways, despite the fact that there is still so much uncertainty about the future and when the pandemic will end. At the same time, we know there remains work to be done and we want to assure you we will be doing everything we can to support the nonprofit sector to the best of our ability during this time.

As we move forward together in 2021, below are some items you may need to know:

- **Foundation Operations** – As with a lot of organizations, we shifted our operations to all-remote in March 2020 and suspended all site visits and face-to-face meetings to ensure everyone's safety. As much as we wish things could be different, we plan to continue operating in this fashion for the time being. In the meantime, please know that we are happy to schedule grant applicant and prior grantee meetings over the phone or Zoom. You can find our [contact information](#) on our website and we promise to respond to you as quickly as possible.
- **Flexibility for Recent Grantees (2020 and prior)** – Progress reporting requirements for recent grantees will be more flexible until further notice. If you are having trouble completing your reporting through the online portal for any reason related to COVID-19, let us know and we will work with you. Please reach out to Kristin with questions.
- **Considerations for Current Applicants** – For those organizations who have expressed an interest in applying for a grant, we will be moving forward with grant cycles as-scheduled. While we fully expect to continue to receive COVID-related grant applications in the three areas of *Frontline Response*, *Return-to-Service/Pivot*, and *Collateral Damage*, we are also open to more “traditional” applications in 2021. We would like to thank all organizations who delayed their applications during 2020 to enable us to direct our attention and dollars to critical community needs.
- **On-Going Support** – We know there are many organizations still facing extreme challenges in many different forms. [Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement \(DANA\)](#) has developed a targeted response and a variety of resources to address the needs of nonprofits during this pandemic. We encourage you to utilize their expertise and reach out to them if there is something you need.

We are proud to be part of a coordinated community response, but we know that our role pales in comparison to the personal and emotional efforts and sacrifices that so many exemplary nonprofit organizations are making. We thank you for the strength, care, and leadership you've already demonstrated and will continue to show until we see this through. We recognize the full impact of this crisis may not be known for some time, but please know that we are here for you and remain 100% committed to getting through this together.

In partnership,
Chris Grundner & Kristin Sommers