



ESSEX COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

Impact Update Report | June 2020



Essex County COVID-19 Response Fund

Elevating the impact of our local nonprofits.

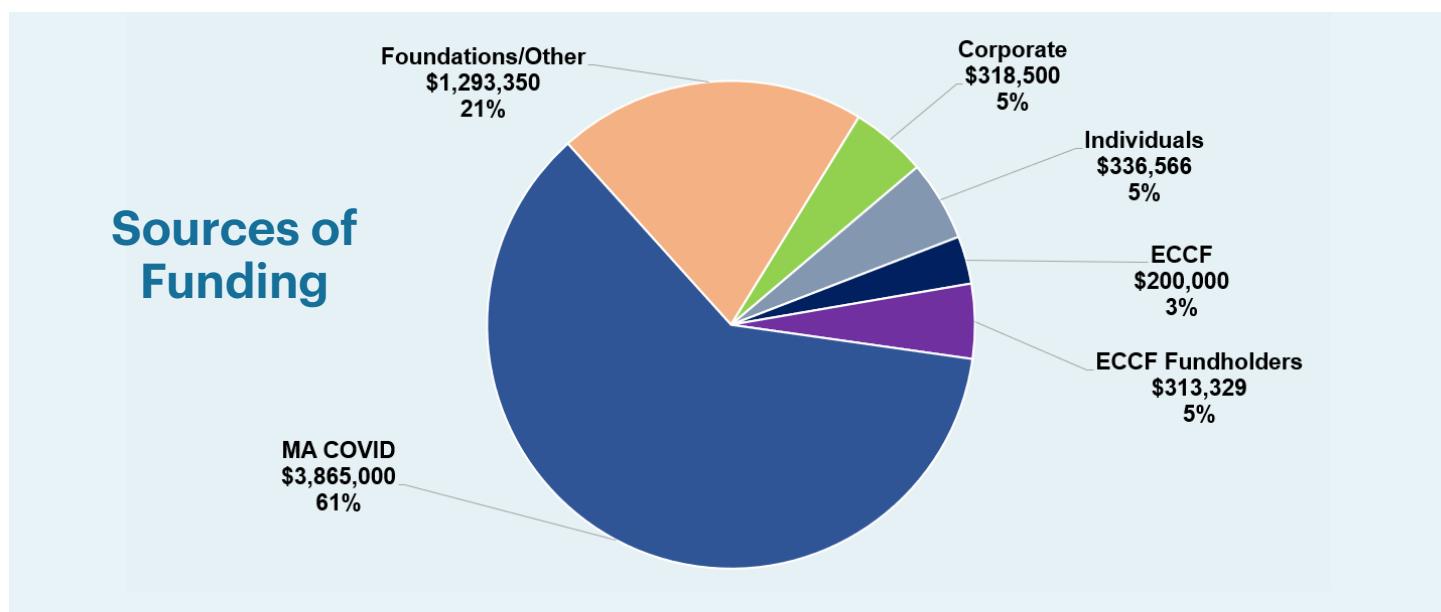
In these unprecedented times, the nonprofit community in Essex County is acting with innovation and compassion to ensure our most vulnerable neighbors are cared for in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. ECCF is honored to support the incredible work of these organizations by delivering financial resources to help them meet the dramatic rise in needs through the **Essex County COVID-19 Response Fund**.

This report is intended to give our donors and community an update on the Fund's impact to date.

Fundraising Overview

Launched in March 2020, the Essex County COVID-19 Response Fund has been successful at uniting our communities for a collective approach to giving.

- In March, ECCF provided seed funding of \$200,000 to rapidly launch the fund
- Initial communication encouraged giving directly to nonprofits addressing hunger and basic needs
- As needs evolved and increased, ECCF asked donors to consider an additional gift to the Essex County COVID-19 Response Fund as a county-wide, collaborative effort
- In April, ECCF was invited to partner with the MA COVID-19 Relief Fund, bringing additional philanthropic resources to Essex County nonprofits
- As of July 3, 2020, ECCF raised **\$6.3M** from nearly 400 gifts from the community.



Understanding our Community Needs

In the early days of the crisis, ECCF conducted surveys and individualized outreach to more than 100 nonprofit and community leaders to clarify where help was needed most. ECCF staff and a core volunteer group continue with individualized outreach with more than 500 individual phone calls and interviews made year-to-date.

The early needs assessment showed critical needs in eight main areas:

ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED (Citizenship Not Required)	HEALTHCARE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased need for case management and legal aid • Inability to work – many employed in food and other Gig industries and services • Need money to pay basic needs like rent, food, etc. • No access to government aid • Fear – of safe treatment if sick, being exposed, etc. • Shifting to new unknown platforms/technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canceled nonessential services & surgeries – now planning reentry • Monthly revenue down significantly • Many staff were furloughed with pay, high spending on emergency equipment and supplies • All outpatient now telemedicine • Anxiety/fear • Burnout • Housing for staff to quarantine away from families • Focused on staff health
SHELTER/HOUSING	FOOD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe spacing and challenge separating exposed individuals • Finding new space • Rise in substance use • Mental health challenges • Increased need for staff and difficult to find • Need medical staff • Creative partnerships with communities/municipalities • Need for advocacy re: landlords • Massive increase in rental assistance requests • Predicted spike in evictions will impact housing and social infrastructure • Need for legal-aid for housing issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubling and tripling of families accessing pantries • Concern about supply chain • Moving to food rescue and looking at agriculture models • New models, new supplies, new costs • Supporting many new housing/shelter orgs • Hiring furloughed restaurant staff • Tons of creative partnerships between communities/municipalities

MENTAL HEALTH	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services online to some but not all due to technology gaps Trauma for frontline/medical. PTSD “Tsunami of need coming” Fear among staff at some agencies to get tested as positive test may result in an inability to work Increased anxiety/depression in clients Suicide risk (hotlines use increase) – but cannot handle capacity Some patient's difficulty adapting to new models of delivery – not accessing as much In some cases, mental health funding took a back seat to basic needs. Worried about kids at risk for abuse/staff cannot monitor as easily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heroin overdoses spike (Lynn) Limited capacity in methadone clinics Telehealth is in place where possible Access to technology - challenge Increase in case management needs Many active users are also unhoused so it's especially difficult to find them and provide support Relaxation of regulations has been a positive for hiring and authorizations
YOUTH	MAYORAL FEEDBACK (Conversations w/ 8 Essex County Mayors)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many agencies opening summer programming with strict social distancing per state guidelines Limited capacity in summer programs – most have 50% decrease in available capacity Great concern about behavioral health support/training of staff and ability to meet needs of youth For home-schooling or virtual summer programming there is an inequity in tech access Food distribution increase Extra stress on kids – many from low-income families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly and homeless number one concern Undocumented and rent relief also great concern for gateway cities Small businesses concern along with reopening plans Safety of healthcare workers at nursing homes Food access Concern about mental health, domestic violence and substance use disorders

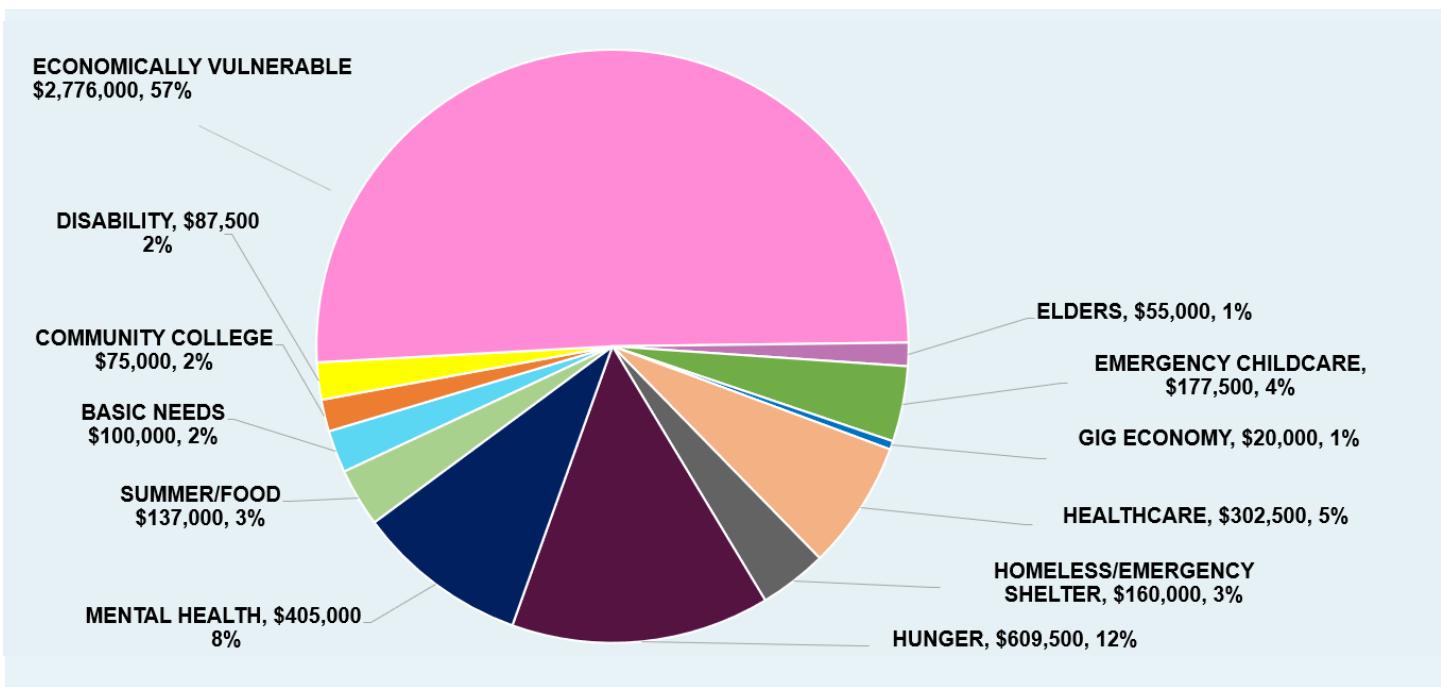
Strategic Grantmaking to Support our Communities

- ECCF deployed a total of **\$4.9M** to more than 200 organizations.
- ECCF curated a panel of Fund Advisors representing experience in the nonprofit sector, financial industry, small business, healthcare, government and philanthropy to inform strategic deployment of funds. Fund Advisors meet weekly.



The Salem Food Pantry | Grantee

GRANTMAKING CATEGORIES & AMOUNTS: \$4.9M



Sector Summary and Learnings:

Nearly all nonprofits in Essex County, across all sectors, continue to experience common challenges:

- Systemic and racial inequities of COVID-19 are evident across all sectors.
- Rapid responses and an ongoing ability to innovate is critical to supporting ongoing community needs.
- Concerns of cash flow – now and in future.
- Staff fatigue/ stress or all together leaving jobs due to fear.
- Importance of mental health due to trauma of the pandemic and a predicted spike in mental health support needs for frontline workers, youth, elders etc.
- A new spirit of collaboration is essential to understanding the interconnection of all sub sectors of the social sector and philanthropy's ability to listen, respond and invest.
- There is future concern for when government supports timeout/ shift that the need for social services (food, healthcare, shelter etc.) will increase beyond current demand.

The Work Continues

The recovery and rebuilding of Essex County communities will continue into the foreseeable future. Essex County's nonprofit organizations – and the people they serve – will need support for a long time to come and to ensure the health and well-being of our region, ECCF is committed to:

- Continue to fundraise specifically for rebuilding and resiliency efforts.
- Deploy funds to organizations serving the ever-evolving needs of the most under served.
- Convene cross sector leaders to develop and activate systems-based efforts.

Thank you for your support!



Express Yourself, Inc. | Grantee