

Responding boldly to the human service crisis caused by the global pandemic, the Jewish United Fund has launched its COVID-19 Initiative.

In an unprecedented move, JUF has leveraged resources from its annual campaign, endowment and access to additional credit, along with the support of other funders, marshaling \$26 million to help Chicagoans of all faiths through this crisis.

JUF's historic response parallels the magnitude of the COVID-19 crisis and the skyrocketing human needs it has unleashed, and it is a significant first step in helping our community weather this storm.

To pinpoint those areas where increased emergency resources would have the greatest impact, JUF surveyed hundreds of service providers, and a committee of volunteers who lead the community's main planning and allocation efforts made its first two rounds of emergency grants in April.

The committee will continue to meet regularly to identify emerging needs, and to provide funding to address them, in the following areas:



Emergency Financial Aid—cash grants for housing, food, medical care and other essentials for individuals and families in crisis, including assistance provided through synagogues' Rabbinic Discretionary Funds;



Increased Food Assistance—expansion of food pantries, grocery gift cards and meal programs for people of all faiths and ethnicities—families, seniors and other individuals in need;



Health & Safety—enhanced staffing, trauma counseling and personal protective equipment (PPE) for Mt. Sinai Hospital, residential programs and other caregivers serving seniors and people with disabilities; and



Community Stability—emergency operating support and professional expertise for local Jewish human service and educational agencies, especially those operating on narrower margins, to ensure future community vitality.

As the needs continue to grow in the weeks and months to come, so must JUF's response.

The strength of the JUF Annual Campaign reflects this community's extraordinary commitment and generosity, and it is that annual campaign that will serve as the backbone of JUF's COVID-19 Initiative going forward.

We know we can count on this community to step up to the plate and bring this great effort to the next level.

Together, we will ensure that thousands more are fed; thousands more are provided emergency cash for rent, utilities, medications and other necessities; and thousands more are receiving medical care.

We are—truly—together for good.

Join the mission:
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