Community Emergency Response Fund
Grant Opportunities

The Community Foundation understands that in our region we are all interconnected. These connections, in a time of pandemic, create risk but also opportunity. We must invest in one another, now more than ever, to provide support for the most vulnerable and alleviate the communitywide effects of this historic crisis. To that end, the Foundation will make targeted grants to community-based organizations providing basic assistance, including food, housing, and medical supplies to our most vulnerable residents.

Purpose:
Community Emergency Response Fund (CERRF) Grants are awarded to support organizations that provide an essential safety net and care for the economic, social, mental, and physical well-being of individuals in our region. The goal of these grants is to increase the capacity of households to withstand the financial and medical ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic, and follow the Centers for Disease Control recommendations for physical distancing in social spaces.

Grant Size and Funding Uses
Please submit proposals for what you need. Grant size will be based on available funding and determined on a case-by-case basis. Eligible uses of funding include general operations, personnel and programmatic costs, and capacity-building investment to meet an increase in activity and/or demand on services. We are also open to supporting other uses of funding that do not fall within these categories, but that contribute to the goals above.

Who Can Apply?
We welcome applications from nonprofit organizations and fiscally-sponsored groups to apply for funding. Organizations in Charlottesville and the counties of Albemarle, Nelson, Louisa, Fluvanna, Greene, Orange, and Buckingham are eligible to apply.

Deadline
Applications are taken on a rolling basis as long as funds are available.

Criteria
The Review Committee will be considering the following when reviewing your proposal:

- How well the request fits with the purpose of the fund
- Readiness of partners to embark on the proposed activity
- The extent to which the requested funds will help the applicant meet demand for services
How to Apply
Submit a proposal that includes the following elements:

1. Description of your funding request (who, what, when, where, how)
2. Explanation of how your request fits with the purpose of the fund
3. Description of what difference this activity will make in the community (what results you hope to see)
4. Budget for the requested funding

We appreciate a proposal that does not exceed a total of 4 page (fewer than 4 page proposals are acceptable and preferred). If you have an application that you have submitted to another funder that thoroughly describes your request, feel free to submit that application to us. If you will be submitting a previously written application, we ask that you be sure to include item #2 above (an explanation of how this request fits with the goal of the fund).

Email all proposals to Eboni Bugg, Director of Programs at: ebugg@cacfonline.org in PDF format. Please include the name of the organization requesting funds in the filename.

Decision-Making Process
Applications will be reviewed by CACF Staff, the Foundation’s Grants Portfolio Committee Members, and approved by the CACF Board of Directors.

Applicants will receive a written acknowledgement of their application upon submission, and can expect a funding decision within one week.

Ineligible Requests
We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in incredible challenges and uncertainty for nonprofits throughout the sector. This grant opportunity is focused on expanding basic services for vulnerable residents, and not on general operations for nonprofits that have experienced a loss of revenue due to canceled events, fundraisers, or limited personnel benefits.

For nonprofit organizations who received an Enriching Communities, Bama Works Fund, or Louisa County Community Fund grant in 2019, the Foundation is automatically granting an extension of one year to complete your proposed project, if possible. If it is not feasible or advisable to move forward as planned, any of the above awards may be considered unrestricted so that you may apply those funds to support your operations in the manner that most helps your organization. For additional resources available to nonprofits during the pandemic, please visit the Center for Nonprofit Excellence at: https://www.thecne.org/covid-19/ 

Questions
Contact Eboni Bugg at ebugg@cacfonline.org or (434)296-0045 with questions about this opportunity.