

Vision Grants



Big Ideas Making a Big Impact

Collaborative Funding



More than ever, we need bold solutions to drive broad social and systemic changes. Thanks to you and other partners, we are making that happen through the Vision Grants Program of the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Delaware in March 2020, the Delaware Community Foundation (DCF) and Philanthropy Delaware launched the COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund. Through this program, generous Delawareans have already donated more than \$5 million to address community needs related to the pandemic.

Once the urgent and basic needs of the community – food, housing, and healthcare – were addressed through our Community Needs Grants Program, the DCF and Philanthropy Delaware launched the Vision Grants Program in the summer of 2020. This second grants program focuses on addressing structural changes and implementing systemic solutions for how our state provides community services over the long term.

While the full impact of COVID-19 is still emerging, the pandemic highlighted opportunities statewide to improve our infrastructure for addressing community needs, including emergency housing, food distribution, workforce development, healthcare delivery, access to education, and more. The Vision Grants Program strives to support creative, innovative initiatives to redesign and restructure how we address these and other needs.

Since inception, the Vision Grants Program has resulted in more than \$3.1 million invested in these transformative initiatives for Delaware, including \$500,000 in direct grants from the fund and another \$2.6 million in co-funding from generous foundations and corporations.

As we continue to award Vision Grants to drive lasting, powerful change in Delaware, we encourage you to join us. Be part of this movement – help us turn this crisis into an opportunity and help Delaware emerge from the pandemic even stronger than before.

Be bold. Contact us today to learn how you can invest in driving lasting, systemic change through the Vision Grants Program.

STUART COMSTOCK-GAY
President & CEO
Delaware Community Foundation

TYNETTA BROWN
President & CEO
Philanthropy Delaware

Delawareans are reimagining how to equitably, sustainably and effectively provide services and programs statewide.

Vision Grants help big thinkers get their ideas off the ground by offering targeted support at three funding phases: Discovery, Planning and Implementation.

Phase 1: Discovery

To advance bold, promising ideas in their early stages, selected applicants are awarded coaching time with a strategic partner from the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) to help them develop and communicate their big idea. Among the many initiatives supported were:



Peninsula McCabe UMC

To develop a plan to expand the Heart for the City program, a collaboration of four United Methodist Churches that coordinates food distribution to vulnerable communities in New Castle County.

The Way Home

To design a plan to provide formerly incarcerated veterans in Sussex County with rehabilitative, wrap-around services including immediate housing, medical and behavioral/mental healthcare, and training and career development.

Phase 2: Planning

Vision Grants in the Planning phase help applicants with well-developed ideas develop

implementation plans, detailing resource requirements, operations, legal matters, governance and budget.

Housing Alliance

To advance a comprehensive statewide solution to address homelessness among families.

Delaware Art Museum and Delaware College of Art and Design

To build a joint certificate program to increase employment opportunities in arts therapy, museum services and related areas.



Food Bank of Delaware

To create the Emergency Food System's Strategic Response to the Sustained Impact of COVID-19.

Phase 3: Implementation

Implementation grantees receive seed funding to support their initiatives and are invited to present to a panel of funders, who are invited to collaboratively fund the full amount needed.

Community Education Building/Social Contract - WAVE Learning System

To provide highly qualified guides to help all students with remote learning in small groups called pods.

Community Legal Aid Society

To fund an analysis of the cost of providing Right to Counsel (RTC) in eviction cases for low-income tenants in Delaware, to demonstrate that RTC will produce a strong economic return for the state, advance racial equity and prevent destabilization of low-income communities.

Christina Cultural Arts Center

To launch an arts-focused afterschool program for low-income youth.

Cornerstone West CDC

To support community development by helping current business owners expand their businesses, and drive new development projects in Wilmington's West Side.

Jewish Family Services - Employment Support Network

To provide unemployed individuals struggling in isolation with virtual emotional and mental support.

Love INC of Delmarva

For equipment, staff and resources to centralize food distribution throughout Sussex County in response to increased demand due to COVID-19.



REACH Riverside

To advance wealth retention and economic mobility for residents of Riverside by building quality affordable housing and providing case management, training and support.

Seaford Library

To build out comprehensive telehealth services in Delaware Libraries.

Tech Impact

To close the digital divide by 1) creating the state's first online community help desk to help families access remote education, and 2) identifying and addressing other obstacles to remote learning in partnership with school districts and the state Department of Education.



With the support of Vision Grants, visionary leaders in our community are turning this crisis into an opportunity and changing the way we address community needs at a systemic and structural level.

These thoughtful and innovative leaders are enhancing efficiencies, improving service delivery models and frameworks, and embarking on robust partnerships and collaborations.

You can be part of this critical work by:

- Funding Vision Grants by giving to the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund.
- Participating on a Vision Grants Funder Panel, learning about the initiatives underway and co-funding those that align with your charitable goals.

Contact Sarah Grunewald at sgrunewald@delcf.org or 302.504.5267 to discuss how you can make an impact through the Vision Grants Program.