



Delaware Steps Up

COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund
Impact Report

March 2020-May 2022



WE ARE SO PROUD OF THIS COMMUNITY!

Over the past two and a half years, Delawareans have stepped up in a powerful and inspiring way to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic here in the First State.

Beginning in March 2020, Delawareans donated more than \$5.3 million to the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund, a partnership of the Delaware Community Foundation and Philanthropy Delaware.

We issued the final grants from that fund in May 2022, and – now that every dollar donated has been invested in communities throughout the state – we are pleased to share this report on the full impact of your generosity.

Over the past two years, the fund awarded 294 grants to more than 200 nonprofit organizations and engaged more than 40 volunteers in determining how to distribute the money. Hundreds of thousands of Delawareans have been touched by these grants in countless ways.

In the early phases of the pandemic, the Strategic Response Fund made weekly grants to address urgent needs, including emergency food, housing, medical care and other services. This program was recognized as the fastest and most responsive pandemic grantmaking program in the country.

As the community's needs changed, the fund began awarding broader grants to help fund virtual programming and services, build outdoor facilities, increase support to those isolated by the pandemic and more.

Although the pandemic continues to evolve, we are taking a moment to thank you and celebrate the power of community in responding to this crisis. We hope you will celebrate with us and find joy in what your generosity has achieved.



STUART COMSTOCK-GAY
President & CEO
Delaware Community Foundation



TYNETTA BROWN
President & CEO
Philanthropy Delaware

On the cover:

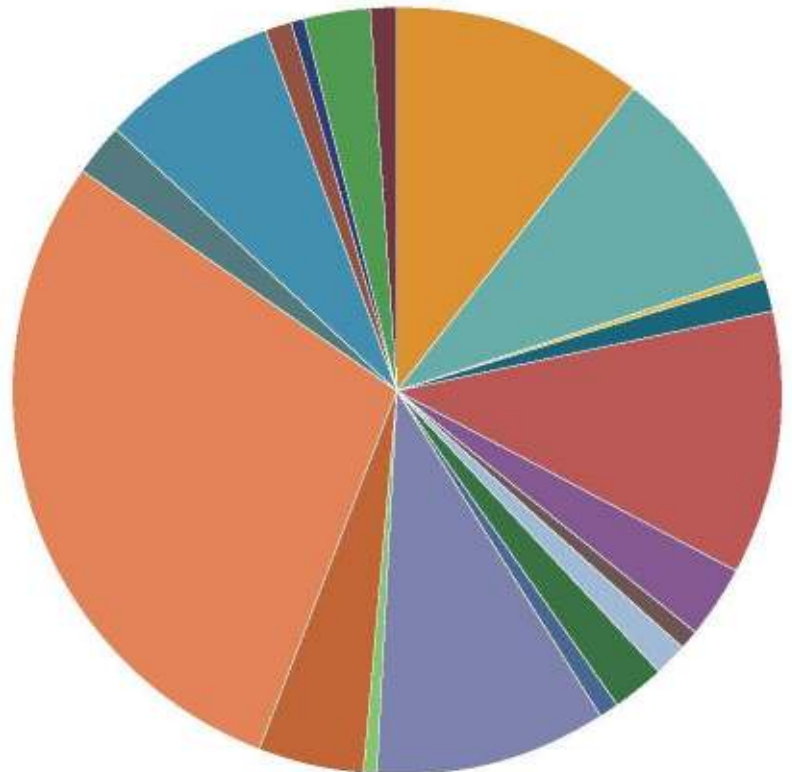
A Vision Grant helped Love INC of Mid-Delmarva partner with other nonprofits and centralize food distribution throughout Sussex County.

GRANTS BY REGION

	Community Needs Grants	Vision Grants	Special Grants	Total Grants
City of Wilmington	\$1,175,510	\$160,000	\$45,000	\$1,380,510
Kent County	\$414,600	\$0	\$60,000	\$474,600
New Castle County	\$617,153	\$0	\$60,000	\$677,153
Sussex County	\$695,390	\$100,000	\$145,390	\$940,780
Statewide	\$1,181,052	\$351,520	\$328,000	\$1,860,572
Totals	\$4,083,705	\$611,520	\$638,390	\$5,333,615

GRANTS BY SUBJECT AREA

Arts, Culture & Humanities	\$572,575
Education	\$501,767
Environment	\$10,000
Animal-Related	\$82,600
Health Care	\$592,478
Mental Health & Crisis Intervention	\$154,046
Voluntary Health Associations & Medical Disciplines	\$45,000
Crime & Legal-Related	\$72,000
Employment	\$119,000
Food, Agriculture & Nutrition	\$20,500
Housing & Shelter	\$526,940
Recreation & Sports	\$31,000
Youth Development	\$235,500
Human Services	\$1,539,246
Civil Rights, Social Action & Advocacy	\$110,000
Community Improvement & Capacity Building	\$411,520
Philanthropy, Voluntarism & Grantmaking Foundations	\$79,443
Public & Societal Benefit	\$35,000
Religion Related	\$150,000
Mutual & Membership Benefit	\$45,000
Total	\$5,333,615



COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

The Community Needs Grants program invested a total of \$4,083,705 in the community, through 264 individual grants to 193 nonprofit organizations up and down the state. The vast majority of the money addressed basic human needs – particularly early in the pandemic – including food, shelter, medical care and safety equipment. Community Needs Grants also helped nonprofits provide services related to education, the arts, and basic human connection at a time when people needed it most.



Literacy Delaware learner Paco was one of many students who continued learning through the pandemic thanks to a virtual program powered by a Community Needs Grant. With the \$15,567 grant, Literacy Delaware bought Chromebooks, trained tutors and launched a new virtual program to ensure English-language learners and other students continued making progress when in-person sessions were not possible.

A WAVE of Healthy Meals Foundation
\$2,000

Absolutely Flawless Women
\$5,000

Arden Club
\$4,000

Arise Delaware
\$4,300

Be Ready Community Development Corporation
\$10,000

Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children
\$22,000

Bellevue Community Center
\$10,000

Best Buddies International
\$10,000

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Delaware
\$10,000

Blood Bank of Delmarva
\$20,000

Boys & Girls Club of Delaware
\$30,000

Brandywine Counseling & Community Services
\$25,000

Brandywine Valley SPCA
\$10,000

CAMP Rehoboth
\$10,000

Cancer Support Community Delaware
\$15,000

Caring Hearts Helping Hands
\$10,000

Catholic Charities - Diocese of Wilmington
\$47,500

Central Baptist Community Development Corporation
\$19,000

Central Delaware Habitat for Humanity
\$35,000

Central Delaware Housing Collaborative
\$10,000

CHEER

\$38,000

CHILD, Inc.

\$36,000

Children & Families First

\$45,000

Chinese American Community Center

\$8,000

Choir School of Delaware

\$47,500

Christina Cultural Arts Center

\$33,000

Cityfest

\$13,250

Clarifi

\$10,000

Claymont Renaissance Development Corporation

\$10,000

Clear Space Theatre Company

\$10,000

Clothing Our Kids

\$10,000

Coastal Concerts

\$3,150

Code Purple Kent County

\$47,000

Colonial Chapter of the Paralyzed Veterans of America

\$15,000

Communities In Schools Delaware

\$12,500

Community Education Building

\$7,800

Community Legal Aid Society, Delaware

\$20,000

Community Resource Center

\$10,000

Connecting Generations

\$10,000

ContactLifeline

\$17,000



*Delaware nonprofits developed creative new ways to serve the community safely, including by moving outdoors. **St. Michael's School and Nursery** in Wilmington recently completed construction of its new outdoor classroom.*

Culture Restoration Project

\$15,000

Delaware Art Museum

\$10,775

Delaware Association for the Education of Young Children

\$10,000

Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition

\$15,000

Delaware Center for Horticulture

\$10,000

Delaware Center for Justice

\$25,000

Delaware Children's Museum

\$55,000

Delaware Children's Theatre

\$10,000

Delaware College of Art and Design

\$15,000

Delaware College Scholars

\$18,000

The Delaware Contemporary

\$20,000

Delaware First Media/Delaware Public Media

\$28,500

Delaware Foundation for Science and Mathematics Education

\$10,000

Delaware Historical Society

\$2,000

Delaware HIV Services

\$20,000

Delaware Institute for the Arts in Education

\$10,000

Delaware Museum of Natural History

\$10,000

Delaware Shakespeare Festival

\$7,500

Delaware Symphony Orchestra

\$12,500



Ingleside Homes in Wilmington kept residents safe during the pandemic through stringent social distancing, cleaning and other safety procedures, supported by several Community Needs Grants totaling \$104,000.

Delaware Theatre Company

\$11,750

Delaware Volunteer Legal Services

\$15,443

Delaware Zoological Society

\$34,600

Delmarva Adult & Teen Challenge

Home of Hope

\$25,000

**Delmarva Clergy United in Social
Action Foundation**

\$10,000

Delmarva Community Services

\$5,700

Developing Artist Collaboration

\$3,400

**Down Syndrome Association of
Delaware**

\$18,700

Downtown Visions

\$10,000

**Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's
Eastern Shore**

\$59,000

EDGE for Tomorrow

\$19,000

Elizabeth W. Murphey School

\$15,600

Embrace Delaware

\$10,000

Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware

\$10,000

**ESL Program at the Lutheran
Church of Our Savior**

\$1,500

Exceptional Care for Children

\$10,388

Faithful Friends Animal Society

\$28,000

**Family Counseling Center of St.
Paul's**

\$43,000

**Family Promise of Northern New
Castle County**

\$25,000

Fellowship Health Resources

\$6,500

**First State Community Action
Agency**

\$40,000

First State Squash

\$15,000

Fractured Atlas

\$10,000

Frederica Senior Center

\$22,500

COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

Friendship House
\$85,000

Future Promises Foundation
\$10,000

Georgetown Public Library
\$16,000

The Grand Opera House
\$15,000

Green Beret Project
\$10,000

Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County
\$85,000

Harper's Heart
\$10,000

Harrington Senior Center
\$27,300

Harry K Foundation
\$28,000

Historic Lewes Farmers Market
\$7,500

Holy Rosary Catholic Church Outreach
\$20,000

Home of the Brave Foundation
\$10,000

Hope Medical-Dental Clinic
\$10,000

House of Pride
\$9,000

I Am Leadership & Technical Academy
\$10,000

Imperial Dynasty Arts Program
\$10,000

Ingleside Homes
\$104,000

InnerCity Cultural League
\$10,000

ITN Southern Delaware
\$10,000

Jewish Family Services of Delaware
\$65,000

Joshua M. Freeman Foundation
\$10,000

Junior League of Wilmington
\$10,000

Kalmar Nyckel Foundation
\$5,400

Kent County Theater Guild
\$10,000

Kent-Sussex Industries
\$50,000

Kind to Kids Foundation
\$15,000

La Esperanza
\$18,000

La Red Health Center
\$42,000

Latin American Community Center
\$110,000

Laurel Community Foundation
\$4,000

Laurel Public Library
\$3,900

Leading Youth Through Empowerment
\$25,000

Lewes Public Library
\$20,000

Life Center Complex
\$15,000

Lighthouse for Broken Wings
\$15,000

Limen House
\$25,000

Literacy Delaware
\$25,567



Read Aloud Delaware received two Community Needs Grants totaling \$30,000 to continue its statewide language development work in children birth to age 3, even in the virtual environment.

When schools closed during the pandemic, many children didn't have access to the food services they relied on. The Rehoboth-based **Harry K Foundation** kept food pantries open throughout the state, operated a mobile food van and launched other creative programs to keep children and their families fed. Community Needs Grants totaling \$38,000 helped support this work.



Little Sisters of the Poor

\$40,000

Lori's Hands

\$10,000

Love INC of Mid-Delmarva

\$50,000

Mary Campbell Center

\$10,000

Mental Health Association in Delaware

\$6,221

Merakey Allos

\$6,500

Better Tomorrows

\$13,000

Milford Housing Development Corporation

\$10,500

Milton Community Food Pantry

\$11,000

Ministry of Caring

\$11,000

Mispillion Art League

\$16,000

Modern Maturity Center

\$100,000

Moms House of Dover

\$10,000

Multiplying Good

\$10,000

Music School of Delaware

\$10,000

Nanticoke Indian Association

\$10,000

Nanticoke Senior Center

\$32,000

National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Delaware Chapter

\$10,000

NCALL Research

\$64,000

Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation

\$10,000

Neighborhood House

\$16,000

Network Delaware

\$25,000

Newark Symphony Orchestra

\$7,500

One Village Alliance

\$15,000

OperaDelaware

\$8,500

Partners for Justice

\$15,000

Paws for People

\$14,000

Planned Parenthood of Delaware

\$40,000

Precision Institute

\$12,500

Preston's March for Energy

\$10,000

Progressive Life Center

\$15,000

Project New Start

\$35,000

Public Allies Delaware

\$20,000

Pursuit for Peace

\$10,000

REACH Riverside Development Corporation

\$15,000

Read Aloud Delaware

\$30,000

COMMUNITY NEEDS GRANTS

Reading Assist Institute
\$15,000

Rehoboth Art League
\$15,000

Rehoboth Beach Historical Society
\$10,000

Rodney Street Tennis and Tutoring Association
\$21,000

Ronald McDonald House of Delaware
\$10,000

Rosa Health Center
\$3,000

Serenity Place
\$3,000

Serviam Girls Academy
\$20,000

Sewell C. Biggs Trust
\$7,250

Siegel JCC
\$26,360

Sojourners' Place
\$21,000

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project
\$25,000

Southern Delaware Therapeutic and Recreational Horseback Riding
\$10,000

Spur Impact Association
\$10,000

Square One DE
\$17,000

St. Patrick's Center
\$20,000

St. Michael's School and Nursery
\$43,000

Stop the Violence Prayer Chain Foundation
\$2,500

STRIVE: How You Lead Matters
\$10,000

Supporting Kidds
\$10,000

Survivors of Abuse in Recovery
\$33,325

Sussex Community Housing Services
\$25,000

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity
\$77,440

Teach a Person to Fish Society
\$10,000

Teach for America - Delaware
\$15,000

TeenSHARP
\$50,000

Vision to Learn
\$20,000

Waggies by Maggie & Friends
\$10,000

Warriors Helping Warriors
\$10,000

West End Neighborhood House
\$70,086

Westside Family Healthcare
\$50,000

What is Your Voice
\$8,000

Wilmington & Western Railroad
\$5,000

Wilmington Children's Chorus
\$10,000

Wilmington Senior Center
\$20,000

Women and Children Transformation Ministry International
\$10,000

YMCA Delaware
\$175,000

YWCA Delaware
\$35,000



Future Promises received a \$10,000 Community Needs Grant to expand its Wilmington youth development program to include a combination of virtual and in-person options. This grant was part of a special initiative targeting small nonprofit organizations led by and/or serving people of color.

VISION GRANTS

As the community adapted, the Vision Grants Program was established to help Delaware nonprofits leverage the crisis of the pandemic, turning it into an opportunity to rethink and restructure their work. The fund awarded \$611,520 in Vision Grants to support nonprofits' efforts to collaborate, streamline, plan and invest in long-term solutions that will elevate their ability to serve the community long after COVID-19 is gone.



With a \$50,000 Vision Grant, **Christina Cultural Arts Center** in Wilmington launched *Our Voices*, an arts-focused afterschool program in the fall of 2021 for low-income youth. CCAC also received \$33,000 in Community Needs Grants for technology to keep students connected through virtual programming when it was unsafe to gather in person. Pictured is *Our Voices* participant Kamariya Norton.

Christina Cultural Arts Center - \$50,000 for an arts-focused after-school program for low-income students

Community Education Building - \$10,000 to coordinate remote academic and social emotional support for students and families

Community Legal Aid Society (two grants) - \$75,000 to fund research about providing legal counsel to low-income individuals in eviction cases

Cornerstone West CDC - \$25,000 to help expand existing businesses and advance other development projects

Delaware Art Museum & Delaware College of Art & Design - \$25,000 to plan a certification program to support careers in the arts

Housing Alliance Delaware - \$25,000 to research a statewide solution to homelessness among families

Jewish Family Services - \$35,000 to provide emotional and mental support to unemployed individuals during the pandemic

Literacy Delaware - \$25,000 for planning to reach adults with low literacy statewide

Love INC of Mid-Delmarva - \$50,000 to centralize distribution of food and other resources in Sussex County

One Village Alliance - \$25,000 to plan the Freedom: Urban Wellness Center, a collaboration of One Village Alliance and 38 churches

REACH Riverside - \$50,000 to support construction of affordable housing, case management and training

Rodel - \$25,000 to support planning for transforming child care access and affordability statewide

Delaware Division of Libraries - \$50,000 to launch telehealth services and kiosks for individuals to access social services

Spur Impact - \$15,000 to increase engagement and support to Delaware nonprofits

Sussex County Habitat for Humanity - \$25,000 for a study on home conditions statewide

Tech Impact - \$76,520 for a feasibility study to address digital inclusion and to create an online community helpdesk (two separate grants)

The Way Home - \$25,000 to provide formerly incarcerated veterans with wrap-around services



The Delaware Division of Libraries launched comprehensive telehealth services, as well as private kiosks for clients to use to access virtual health and social services and onsite social workers to help them navigate. A \$50,000 Vision Grant helped launch the work at Seaford Public Library, and other funders have stepped up to help build out the program and expand it to other libraries in Sussex County.

For more information about the impact of the Vision Grants program, visit delcf.org/vision.

SPECIAL GRANTS

The fund also awarded \$638,390 in special grants to address specific community needs as they emerged. These opportunities were identified by the volunteer grant reviewers and councils as they reviewed hundreds of incoming grant applications, identified trends and monitored the evolution of the pandemic.

Bayhealth - \$60,000 for ongoing COVID-19 response

Beebe - \$60,000 for ongoing COVID-19 response

Challenge Program - \$45,000 to provide on-the-job experience working on professional construction projects

ChristianaCare - \$60,000 for ongoing COVID-19 response

Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement - \$53,000 for consulting with nonprofits working on Vision Grant projects

DCF Journalism Internship Program - \$25,000 for interns to help newsrooms increase coverage of hard-hit Black and brown communities

DCF Marketing - \$25,000 toward the production and publication of Strategic Response Fund reports and videos

Donate Delaware - \$50,000 for personal protective equipment for schools and nonprofits

NERDiT Now - \$75,000 for computers for nonprofit organizations

Sussex County Relief Fund - \$50,000 for emergency assistance to individuals and families in need

TidalHealth Nanticoke - \$35,390 for ongoing COVID-19 response

United Way COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund - \$100,000 for emergency assistance to individuals and families in need

DCF Journalism Internship Program

Community leaders called for better local news and information about the pandemic, particularly relating to Delaware's hard-hit Black and brown communities. A special \$25,000 grant funded the DCF Journalism Internship Program, which helped local news outlets hire four interns – including Docquan Louallen, pictured at DelawareOnline/The News Journal – to expand coverage of these communities.





Sussex County Relief Fund

COVID-19 had an outsized impact on Sussex County's Hispanic communities, particularly during the spring and summer of 2020, when a group of "hot spots" – areas with large numbers of COVID cases – emerged in the southern part of the state. A \$50,000 grant from the Strategic Response Fund helped provide emergency relief and services to Hispanic people facing the difficulties of the pandemic compounded by other barriers, including language, limited access to medical care, close working and living arrangements, lack of documentation and more.

As we close the Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund and reflect on this remarkable community effort, we are grateful to the dozens of foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals who contributed. We are particularly grateful to these major donors:

- **Longwood Foundation** (\$2 million)
- **Barclays** (\$700,000)
- **New Castle County** (\$500,000)
- **Welfare Foundation** (\$300,000)
- **CSC** (\$100,000)
- **Crestlea Foundation** (\$100,000)
- **Fund for Women** (\$100,000)
- **Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware** (\$100,000)
- **Jesse Ball Du Pont Fund** (\$100,000)
- **Laffey-McHugh** (\$100,000)
- **Discover** (\$100,000)
- **DCF** (\$75,000)
- **DuPont** (\$75,000)
- **Gates Foundation** (\$65,000)
- **Jeff and Rhonda Banning Foundation** (\$50,000)
- **Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell** (\$50,000)
- **Comenity Bank** (\$75,000)
- **M&T** (\$50,000)
- **WSFS Bank** (\$25,000)
- **Fulton Bank** (\$35,000)
- **JP Morgan Chase** (\$30,000)
- **Bank of America** (\$25,000)
- **TD Bank** (\$25,000)
- **Capital One** (\$25,000)

The Delaware Community Foundation waived all administrative fees for this fund so that 100% of donations went to organizations helping people in need.



The COVID-19 pandemic left many families and their pets in great need. In the summer of 2021, three local animal shelters teamed up to provide pet food and cat litter to Delaware families. **Faithful Friends, Delaware Humane Association and Delaware SPCA** hosted four Drive-Up Pet Food Banks serving over 1,900 individuals, 1,419 dogs and 1,948 cats throughout the state. A \$28,000 Community Needs Grant helped support this work.

We are grateful to the dozens of community members who guided our decisions about how to most effectively award grants from the Strategic Response Fund. These individuals gave generously of their time and expertise to serve our community.

VISION GRANT COUNCIL

Stuart Comstock-Gay, Delaware Community Foundation (Chair)

Raye Jones Avery, Community Leader and Advocate

Jeff Banning, Jeff and Rhonda Banning Foundation

Jenn Cho, Barclays US Consumer Bank

Thère du Pont, Longwood Foundation

Chris Grundner, Welfare Foundation and Crestlea Foundation

Daniel Okonkwo, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Karen Speakman, NCALL Research, Inc.

Amy Walls, Discover Bank

Alan Levin, SoDel Concepts

Todd Veale, Laffey-McHugh Foundation

Enid Wallace-Simms, Retired, Delmarva Power

Amy Walls, Discover Bank

COMMUNITY NEEDS REVIEW TEAM

Regina Alonzo

Doug Anton

Pam Baker

Mary Biddle

Tony Bosworth

Don Brown

Cynthia Carter-Wedgewood

Roger Chaufournier

Jenn Cho

Chelsea Clark

Deneé Crumrine

Len DeCapua

Philippe Devieux

Jill DiPaolo

Mike DiPaolo

Natalie Disabatino

Kate Dupont Phillips

Lisa Forever

Sharon Gaudino

Janice Grackin

Chris Grundner

Todd Hammond

Lu Johnston

George Meldrum

Connie Montana

Melissa (Micek) Nolan

Annie Norman

Lauren Petrusky

Louie Phillips

Chuck Posnecker

Joanne Reilly

Carol Revak

Frank Robinson

Jerome Rogers

Charles Salkin

Christine Sauers

Pamela Sharpe

Susan Sherk

Maria Stecker

Marie Stewart

Donna Stinson

Sharon Taylor

Crystin Thorton

Charles Vincent

Michelle Whetzel

COMMUNITY NEEDS COUNCIL

Leslie Newman, Community Leader and Advocate (Chair)

April Birmingham, M&T Bank

Don Brown, Retired, Dupont

Ashley Cook, Wells Fargo Private Bank

The Delaware COVID-19 Strategic Response Fund is part of the Delaware COVID-19 Emergency Response Initiative, a nonprofit collaborative response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Delaware Community Foundation, Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement, Philanthropy Delaware and United Way of Delaware are working together to coordinate charitable resources throughout the state, in an effort to maximize the impact of the grants and target communities with the most need.

DELAWARE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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