

DAILY TIMES

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Community Briefs: Delco COVID-19 Response Fund crosses \$500G mark in funds distributed to essential nonprofits

- Aug 11, 2020



Sandra Harris, a direct service provider at CADES, dons her protective mask while on the job. The Foundation for Delaware County recently provided a \$10,000 grant for the personal protective equipment that is vital for CADES and other service providers to continue to serve individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities in Delaware County.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

MEDIA— The Foundation for Delaware County announced its fourteenth round of grants from the Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund. Last week, four grants, totaling \$35,000 were distributed, including two \$10,000 grants for personal protective equipment to Carelink Community Support Services and Children and Adults Disability and Educational Services so that staff can continue to work with individuals with disabilities. In total, the Response Fund has awarded more than \$525,000 through 66 grants to essential nonprofits serving Delaware County.

The Response Fund has secured more than \$675,000 in donations thanks to the generosity of many individuals, businesses and foundations. The foundation is making every effort to get funds to the community as quickly as possible, and nonprofits are encouraged to apply. Grants help nonprofits to restart childcare service operations safely, provide food boxes and essential items such as diapers and basic hygiene products to low-income families, provide Personal Protective Equipment for front line workers, give breakfast and lunch items for students, and much more.

The complete list of grantees from the Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund is available at <https://delcofoundation.org/response-fund-grant-awards>.

In addition, The Foundation for Delaware County awarded four grants totaling \$41,804 to area nonprofits in the final round of grantmaking for the 2020 Census, bringing the total awarded for the year to \$99,813. These grants will give recipients the resources to inform and educate, conduct outreach and provide technical assistance to ensure a complete and accurate census count for hard-to-reach communities in Delaware County.

Included in this third and final round of funding for census outreach is a \$22,954 grant to support the Delaware County Immigrant Coalition's Immigrant Civic Leadership Project. A partnership of seven immigrant groups including Multicultural Community Family Services, the Ethiopian Community Association and Centro de Apoyo Comunitario will provide census champion training and a virtual "Be Counted" census outreach phone bank drive via social media to help ensure Delaware County immigrant households complete the Census.

"The 2020 Census is still one of the most important issues for Delaware County this year. As controversy has emerged about whether the census deadline will be shortened from Oct. 31 to Sept. 30, it is even more critical that we do everything we can to ensure a complete and accurate count for Delaware County," said Frances Sheehan, foundation president. "We are grateful that these nonprofits stepped forward because they have experience in the communities that we need to reach, and we have only a few more months to ensure a complete count."

A full list of census grants awarded can be found on the foundation's website: <https://delcofoundation.org/2020-census-request-for-proposals>.

The following organizations are new recipients of grants awarded from the Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund:

- CareLink Community Support Services: \$10,000 for personal protective equipment for staff who work with individuals with persistent mental illness and/or developmental disabilities in Delaware County.
- Children and Adults Disability and Educational Services: \$10,000 for personal protective equipment for staff who work with individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities in Delaware County.
- Cradles to Crayons: \$5,000 for essential supplies to support families in Delaware County.
- The Salvation Army: \$10,000 for equipment to comply with public health requirements for their shelter in Chester.

The following organizations are new recipients of grants awarded from the Delco 2020 Census Action Fund:

- Chester Community Improvement Project – \$5,850 to partner with local businesses and artists who will act as Census Advocates to help ensure that households in the City of Chester are counted in the 2020 Census.
- Making a Change Group – \$5,000 to support digital outreach and canvassing in census tracts with low participation in the City of Chester.
- Multicultural Community Family Services – \$22,954 to support a partnership between Multicultural Community Family Services and the Delaware County Immigrant Coalition. The immigrant coalition initiative named Immigrant Civic Leadership Project will conduct census champion training and a virtual “Be Counted” census outreach phone bank drive via social media to help ensure Delaware County immigrant households complete the Census.
- Upper Darby Corporation for Community and Economic Development – \$8,000 to support outreach, using the Language Line and distribution of educational material to non-English speaking residents by targeting the 69th Street commercial corridors of Upper Darby.
- The Delaware County Complete Count Action Fund is made possible by a \$50,000 challenge grant from the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, which has been matched with a \$25,000 grant from The Foundation for Delaware County and grants from the Crozer-Chester Medical Fund, Delaware County Memorial Hospital Medical Fund, Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union, Laborers Local 413, PECO, and Wells Fargo.

For more information and updates, visit www.delcofoundation.org.