



**For Immediate Release  
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**THE FOUNDATION FOR DELAWARE COUNTY ANNOUNCES  
DELAWARE COUNTY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND**

**MEDIA, PA** (March 17, 2020) — The Foundation for Delaware County today announced a \$100,000 contribution to the new **Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund**. Established by the foundation on Friday, the fund is a partnership with area business, government and community partners.

According to the foundation’s president Frances Sheehan, “100% of donations will go directly to vulnerable communities in Delaware County by supporting the non-profit agencies that are already struggling to manage increased need for services at a time when they simply cannot operate with the usual resources and methods.”

Sheehan went on to say that the foundation’s board recognizes that as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to intensify locally, it will have vastly disproportionate health, economic, and social impacts on vulnerable citizens, particularly disadvantaged communities — including older adults, people with compromised immune systems, low-wage workers, and the homeless.

“We’re grateful that our board chose to step forward so quickly and urge others to come forward as generously as possible during this time of unprecedented crisis.”

The foundation is gathering information about how to most effectively provide immediate support, with the understanding that the impacts will be long-lasting and recovery for many will be a difficult process. An advisory committee comprised of Delaware County business, foundation, government and nonprofit leaders will be formed to oversee the funds distributions. Mike Magnavita, President of the Franklin Mint Credit Union, will chair the committee, which will include Brian Zidek, Delaware County Council Chairman.

The Fund will identify local nonprofit organizations that have proven track records and are trusted by the communities that are most disproportionately affected by this crisis. Local organizations have the agility, trust, and knowledge to develop extremely effective approaches to engage with communities. The Response Fund's community-based strategy will complement government actions and other response efforts and will provide both immediate relief and longer-term recovery initiatives for maximum impact.

For more information, please go to <https://delcofoundation.org/delaware-county-covid-19-response-fund/>

To donate to the fund: <https://delcofoundation.org/support-us/donation-options/>

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### **About The Foundation for Delaware County**

A public charity founded in 2016, The Foundation for Delaware County is the largest philanthropy serving Delaware County. One of 780 community foundations across the U.S., the foundation focuses on encouraging philanthropy, convening across sectors to address difficult community issues, and makes grants to strengthen Delaware County's nonprofit community. With headquarters in Media and with services sites in Chester, Upper Darby and Springfield, last year, the foundation made nearly \$1.5 million in grants to improve the health and quality of life for the diverse residents in this thriving county. Learn more here:

<https://delcofoundation.org/the-foundation-for-delaware-county-awards-over-1-1-million-to-local-nonprofits/>

The Foundation for Delaware County also operates prestigious evidence-based programs such as Healthy Start, the WIC nutrition program, Nurse-Family Partnership, Drug Free Communities, El Centro (a Hispanic resource center), and a health resource center for students in the Chester Upland School District, which serves one of the region's poorest communities. To learn more, visit the foundation on the web at [www.delcofoundation.org](http://www.delcofoundation.org) and follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter at @DelcoFdn.

**For more information, please contact Katy Lichtenstein, Associate Director of Development and Communications, at [klichtenstein@delcofoundation.org](mailto:klichtenstein@delcofoundation.org) or 610.744.1017.**