

## *\$1 Million Fundraising Goal Reached. The Foundation for Delaware County Focuses on Vaccine Education*



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Pictured are members of the Delaware County Immigrant Coalition who received a \$52,000 grant to help provide vaccine outreach and education for the immigrant community.

This week, a \$1 million fundraising goal for the Delaware County COVID-19 Response Fund was reached, with more than \$832,000 distributed in 88 grants to area nonprofits, to cope with the pandemic.



The Foundation for Delaware County, which established the year-old fund, will now focus the fund's grants to support nonprofits addressing vaccine hesitancy education as it continues to meet other pandemic-related needs.

"We wish to thank every individual, family, business, and foundation that stepped forward to support the Delaware County nonprofit community through the foundation's Response Fund," said Joanne Craig, foundation Chief Impact Officer. "We could not have provided this support without you. This funding has been a lifeline for nonprofits. The foundation will continue to distribute grants and we encourage all nonprofits to consider applying by visiting [delcofoundation.org](http://delcofoundation.org)."

### **Grants Available for Vaccine Education and Access**

Some grant money will now help nonprofits educate the community about the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine as well as coordinating vaccine access for communities of color.

Most recently, the foundation awarded \$53K from the Response Fund to the Delaware County Immigrant Coalition to provide vaccine outreach and education for the immigrant community.

### **Delaware County Public Health Fund**

The foundation has also established a new fund to support county plans to create a public health department.

At the foundation board meeting last week, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to seed the new fund with a \$50,000 grant and is encouraging other foundations, individuals, and businesses to come forward and support this critical community effort.

Delaware County is one of the largest counties in the country yet it is the only county in Philadelphia's five-county region without its own health department.

That has meant Delaware County missing decades of state public health funding, receiving only limited services from the state's Department of Health.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Delaware County had to turn to neighboring Chester County to provide coordination and services, slowing down the response to the virus.

“The foundation is proud to have the trust of Delaware County Council and the county’s staff leadership with this critical public/private partnership,” said Frances Sheehan, foundation President. “Funds raised will be used to support efforts to educate the county’s residents about what a public health department means for our community, initiate pilot programs designed to create the highest quality public health department, and cover other costs not supported by tax dollars. Donations are welcome and can be made online to the Delaware County Public Health Fund at [delcofoundation.org](https://delcofoundation.org).”

Learn more about the county’s effort to launch its own public health department: <https://www.delcopa.gov/health/index.html>.

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

For more information and updates, you can visit the foundation at [www.delcofoundation.org](https://www.delcofoundation.org) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram @delcofdn.