



\$8.5M in COVID-19 Response Grants Helps Ease the Pain

These are challenging times for gratitude. As the coronavirus pandemic upends lives across the globe, it feels natural to focus on what communities like ours in Los Angeles have lost: loved ones, financial security for so many, and, in some cases, the ability to meet basic daily needs.

Yet, if there is a silver lining to all the suffering, it is the power of people to come together to uplift their neighbors and offer mutual support. At the Jewish Community Foundation, we are grateful to be in a position to lend a helping hand and proud to announce we are directing the entirety of our 2020 grantmaking — \$8.5 million — toward vital COVID-19 relief. Including the nearly \$4.5 million in pandemic aid generously distributed by our donors so far, a total of \$13 million is flowing through The Foundation to aid nonprofit agencies who are there to ease the suffering.



Project Angel Food cooks and delivers nutritious meals, free of charge, to people affected by life-threatening illnesses.

Phase One: Addressing Immediate Needs

Formally known as COVID-19 Response Grants, our plan to assist LA-based nonprofits in both the Jewish and general communities is unfolding in two phases. The first encompasses grants to organizations providing direct services to those affected by the pandemic. In July, Phase One funding distributed \$2.5 million to [22 nonprofits](#) for immediate needs in shoring up financial and housing instability, combating food insecurity, and ensuring access to adequate healthcare.



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LA Family Housing helps families transition out of homelessness and poverty.

Identifying these Phase One nonprofits was a lengthy process dedicated mostly to researching and listening, notes Lori Klein, vice president of The Foundation's [Center for Designed Philanthropy](#). "We reached out to more than 100 of our grantees and other nonprofits to see how they were doing, learn more about their needs, and determine how we could be helpful," she says.

The resulting grants will give a crucial boost to 22 area nonprofits, including Jewish Family Service, the Los Angeles Jewish Home, Bet Tzedek, Project Angel Food, Venice Family Clinic, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital, among many others. Their response, notes Klein, has been very uplifting. "After we announced the grants, we received so much



Los Angeles Regional Food Bank distributes food and other essentials to children, seniors, families, and other individuals in need.



Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital is dedicated to improving health in South Los Angeles.

gratitude from our grantees and appreciation for the vital role The Foundation is playing to address critical needs caused by the pandemic," she recalls. "We are deeply moved to see the difference we will make."

\$1 Million for The Federation's Pandemic Relief Campaign

Phase One of The Foundation's plan also includes a \$1 million grant to [The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles](#) for its efforts to support wellness and resiliency, access to food assistance through synagogues, financial aid and scholarships for early-childhood and day-school education to families affected by COVID-19, and loan guarantees. Jay Sanderson, The Federation's president and CEO, points out that The Federation and The Foundation have long collaborated to advance the common good.

"Our two organizations' deep partnership affects our community each and every day," he says. "We are deeply appreciative that The Foundation has again stepped forward with generous financial support to help us come to the aid of our growing vulnerable population directly affected by COVID-19."





Phase Two: Sustainability of Jewish Nonprofits

The second phase of The Foundation’s pandemic related grantmaking amounts to \$6 million. Grants will be awarded on an invitation-only basis to Jewish nonprofits locally and in Israel to mitigate economic hardship resulting from COVID-19 and to ensure their continued viability.

With no end to the pandemic in sight, vulnerable individuals and families across Los Angeles face a period of prolonged uncertainty. But at The Foundation, one thing is certain. We are laser-focused on COVID-19 relief locally and in Israel.

We are deeply grateful for our cherished donors, dedicated members of our Board of Trustees, and, especially, our exceptional grantees, whose life-changing work will sustain our community and help us move toward better days ahead. ✘



Tomchei Shabbos serves families in the observant and Orthodox Jewish community in Greater Los Angeles.

Vital funding for our COVID response provided by two longtime supporters:

Mickey and Irene Ross Endowment

Mickey Ross, z”l, was an Emmy Award-winning television comedy writer and producer (*All in the Family, The Jeffersons, Three’s Company*) who created an endowment at The Foundation to support LA’s most vulnerable citizens. Mads Bjerre — Mickey’s former business manager who helped him establish the Ross Endowment at The Foundation — is enthusiastic about the endowment’s participation in The Foundation’s COVID-19 Response Grants program. “Because this initiative is helping the neediest in Los Angeles, I know that Mickey, of blessed memory, would have been so proud and grateful to contribute to its success through his endowment fund,” he explains.

Erwin Rautenberg Foundation

We partner closely with this private family foundation to manage its grantmaking locally, in Israel, and throughout the world. A Holocaust survivor who built a thriving international shipping business, Erwin Rautenberg, z”l, created his foundation to benefit Jewish educational initiatives and human services programs. For the Erwin Rautenberg Foundation, partnering in The Foundation’s COVID-19 response was a moral imperative, and the most effective way to maximize impact. “We’re able to rely on The Foundation’s deep expertise in researching and vetting nonprofits that are best suited to meet critical needs — and we know our foundation’s resources will help relieve some of the pain and unprecedented suffering,” commented Tom Corby, the organization’s president and co-founder of the Corby & Corby accounting firm.