

# COVID-19 Response Efforts

Aspen Community Foundation is leading community response efforts to help individuals and families impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. More than 200 donors have contributed more than \$9.5 million to provide economic support, food access, business support, and other essential services throughout the region.

Nearly \$7.7 million has been disbursed thus far through two funds held at ACF:

## 2020 RESCUE FUND

The 2020 Rescue Fund was established by local donors to help those individuals, families, nonprofits, and small businesses severely impacted by the health and financial crisis resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak. The fund supports social service nonprofits that are providing essential humanitarian assistance during the crisis, helping individuals who “fall through the cracks” receive the assistance they need and seek ways to address gaps that will exist in the region due to the scale of issues.

Contributions - \$5,054,511  
Amount granted - \$4,070,921

Number of donors - 119  
Number of grantees – 53

## COVID-19 REGIONAL RESPONSE FUND

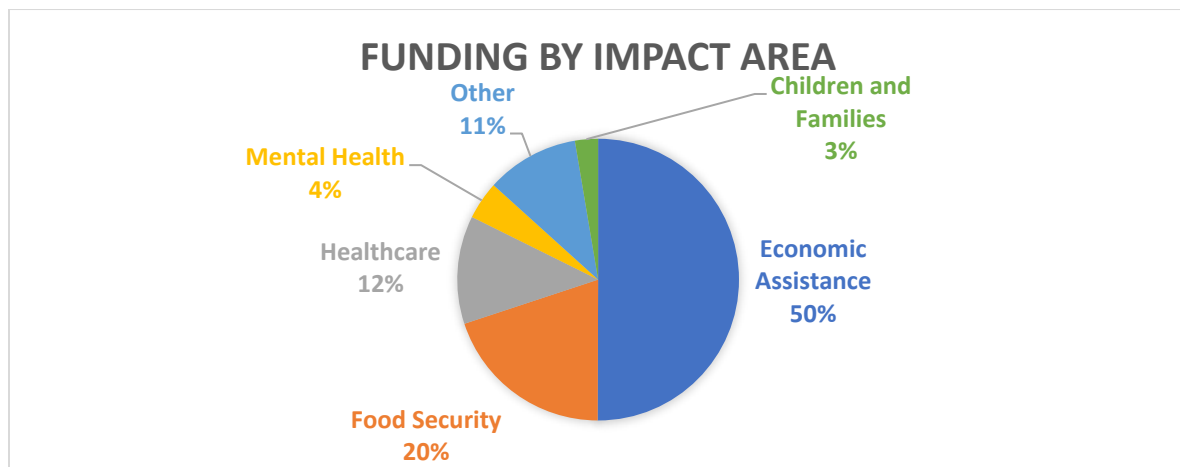
Aspen Community Foundation has created the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund to receive contributions from donors who want to support the immediate and long-term needs of the individuals and families in the Aspen to Parachute region. Funds are granted to nonprofit organizations providing economic assistance, food distribution, and other essential services such as legal aid, domestic violence support, childcare, mental health, and health care. Disbursements from the fund are overseen by ACF’s Board of Directors.

Contributions - \$4,322,533  
Amount granted - \$3,604,382

Number of donors - 182  
Number of grantees – 136

## IMPACT AREAS

Funding has benefited approximately 12,000 individuals and families throughout the Aspen to Parachute region in 5 major areas: Economic Assistance, Food Security, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Children and Families.



The following organizations have received funding for regional COVID response efforts:

## ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

### ASPEN FAMILY CONNECTIONS

*Based in Aspen, serving Aspen School District*

**Mission Statement:** “Aspen Family Connections is a response center and activity hub created to connect all families residing in Pitkin County with services and programs to support them and their children in any and all aspects of their family journey, building on strengths, self-reliance and community connections.”

**Overview:** Aspen Family Connections is a resource hub, designed to be a one-stop shop for families seeking services, connection to and help with navigating resources, and prevention education, information and support.

**Crisis Response:** Aspen Family Connections provides case management and economic assistance to families in need and distributes food weekly through its drive-through site and home deliveries.

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES, WESTERN SLOPE

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Pitkin, Eagle and Garfield counties*

**Overview:** Catholic Charities’ Western Slope office provides safety net services for vulnerable individuals and families including financial assistance to prevent eviction, pay utility bills or access food. The organization is the primary source of assistance for those who are unable to obtain government assistance.

**Crisis Response:** Catholic Charities is providing direct economic assistance to individuals and families who are unable to obtain government assistance, particularly those who are undocumented.

### FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER, ROARING FORK SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Based in and serving Basalt, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs schools*

**Overview:** The Family Resource Center of the Roaring Fork School District is a resource hub, designed to be a one-stop shop for families seeking services, connection to and help with navigating resources, and prevention education, information and support.

**Crisis Response:** Family Resource Center is providing information and support for students who qualify for free or reduced lunch in the district. It is also coordinating school-based breakfast and lunch service as well as partnering with food distribution activities in Basalt and El Jebel.

### GARFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT 16 FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

*Based in Parachute, serving Parachute*

**Overview:** The Garfield School District 16 Family Resource Center is a resource hub, designed to be a one-stop shop for families seeking services, connection to and help with navigating resources, and prevention education, information and support.

**Crisis Response:** The Garfield 16 Family Resource Center is organizing food distribution and school meals for students and families in Parachute. In addition, it also distributing economic assistance to families in need.

## HEALTHY ALL TOGETHER

*Based in Basalt, serving the mid-valley*

**Overview:** Healthy All Together was formed in September 2019 to connect MidValley Family Practice clients to basic needs resources in the community.

**Crisis Response:** With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Healthy All Together has been focused on providing uninsured individuals with testing and care and helping them access financial assistance for housing, food, and other basic necessities.

## LA MEDICHI, A PROJECT OF MANAUS

*Based in Carbondale, serving Basalt to Parachute*

**Overview:** La Medichi is a savings and credit club designed to financially support people who do not have access to traditional financial institutions.

**Crisis Response:** La Medichi has added the ability for people to apply for \$1,000 economic assistance grants; \$950 is given as cash and \$50 is put into a savings account that can be accessed later.

## LANDLORD TENANT RECOVERY FUND, MOUNTAIN VOICES PROJECT

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Mountain Voices Project is focused on developing leadership and strengthening community by empowering ordinary families to have powerful voice in the decisions that affect their lives and neighborhoods.

**Crisis Response:** Mountain Voices Project leaders have created a region-wide and stakeholder-driven plan to respond to financial needs around rent assistance for housing. Central to this plan is the formation of a Landlord-Tenant Relief Fund (LTR Fund) that pays  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a tenant's past due rent and future rents to landlords who volunteer to work to keep their tenants in their housing.

## PITKIN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

*Based in Aspen, serving to Pitkin County*

**Overview:** Pitkin County Human Services supports individuals and families, improves health and wellbeing, and optimizes community safety through its programs.

**Crisis Response:** Human Services is coordinating county response efforts around meals and food, economic assistance, mental health, and senior services.

## RESPONSE

*Based in Aspen, serving to Basalt/El Jebel*

**Overview:** Response serves victims and survivors of domestic violence and their families by training volunteer advocates and providing 24/7 crisis intervention, support-group counseling and court advocacy.

**Crisis Response:** Response staff continue to conduct video calls and check-ins for clients and the organization provides economic assistance for individuals to seek shelter from abuse.

## RIVER CENTER OF NEW CASTLE

*Based in New Castle, serving New Castle, Silt and Rifle*

**Overview:** The River Center of New Castle provides a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of the residents of New Castle and Silt. This includes food backpacks for school children, community drives for food and clothing, and senior programs.

**Crisis Response:** River Center provides economic assistance for people living in New Castle, Silt and Rifle. It is also a food distribution site.

## SALVATION ARMY, GLENWOOD SPRINGS

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Salvation Army provides humanitarian aid to individuals and families in need. This includes economic assistance, food, shelter, and referrals to community resources.

**Crisis Response:** Salvation Army is providing economic assistance to individuals and families, many of whom are not able to access funding elsewhere.

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

### FOOD BANK OF THE ROCKIES, WESTERN SLOPE

*Based in Grand Junction, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Food Bank of the Rockies is the primary food supplier for LIFT-UP, Aspen Family Connections, River Center of New Castle and other food distributors from Aspen to Parachute.

**Crisis Response:** In addition to helping supply food for distribution in Pitkin and Garfield counties, Food Bank of the Rockies is helping organize weekly food distribution for the Basalt/El Jebel area.

### GRAND RIVER MEALS ON WHEELS

*Based in Rifle, serving New Castle to Parachute*

**Overview:** Grand River Meals on Wheels (GRMOW) provides hospital prepared, home delivered meals to seniors, people with disabilities and hospice clients in western Garfield County. More than 70 volunteers are used to deliver meals along six different routes.

**Crisis Response:** GRMOW has experienced a 300% increase in clients since the COVID-19 pandemic began. They've implemented new delivery protocols to comply with public health orders and are also checking in with clients more frequently by phone to ensure their welfare.

## HARVEST FOR HUNGER

*Based in Snowmass Village, serving Aspen to Glenwood Springs*

**Overview:** Harvest for Hunger is a new nonprofit organization serving the Roaring Fork Valley. It was formed earlier this year to reduce food waste by directing unused food from visitors, restaurants, and grocery stores to those in need.

**Crisis Response:** Working with Food Bank of the Rockies, Harvest for Hunger is coordinating local food rescue, picking up food from grocery stores, restaurants, and hotels and delivering it to nonprofits for distribution to those in need.

## LIFT-UP

*Based in Rifle, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** LIFT-UP has food pantries in Parachute, Rifle, New Castle, Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, Basalt and Aspen. These pantries distribute thousands of bags of groceries each year.

**Crisis Response:** LIFT-UP is the main food distributor for Garfield County. It recently reopened its Aspen location and acquired two refrigerated trucks to transport food throughout the region.

## VALLEY MEALS AND MORE

*Based in and serving Carbondale*

**Overview:** Valley Meals and More, a program of Senior Matters, is dedicated to enhancing the wellness of older adults in the region by providing nutritious daily meals, connection to community, and support services, to allow older residents to age in place, safely, independently and with dignity.

**Crisis Response:** Valley Meals and More has grown from delivering eight meals a day to more than 30 to seniors living in and around Carbondale.

## MENTAL HEALTH

### ASPEN HOPE CENTER

*Based in Basalt, serving Aspen to El Jebel and the Eagle River Valley*

**Overview:** Aspen Hope Center provides an array of mental health services including a 24-hour crisis line, individual counseling, community education, and information and referrals

**Crisis Response:** Aspen Hope Center is the primary mental health care provider for first responders and is also manning the crisis hotline for the region. It is also offering therapy to anyone working during this pandemic for free or very reduced costs and devising a disaster response mental health training for local practitioners.

## ASPEN STRONG

*Based in Aspen, serving the Roaring Fork Valley*

**Overview:** Aspen Strong is connecting the mental health resources and promoting mental hygiene in the Roaring Fork Valley

**Crisis Response:** Aspen Strong continues to be the information resource for private practitioners and individuals seeking mental health services. It is working in partnership with the Hope Center and Mind Springs to provide a continuum of mental health care in the valley.

## MIND SPRINGS HEALTH

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Mind Springs Health provides a continuum of mental health care including mobile crisis response, vocational and residential rehabilitation, peer services, education and trainings, and outpatient and inpatient treatment.

**Crisis Response:** Mind Springs is providing its services virtually and is also organizing the mental health response for Pitkin County.

## MENTAL HEALTH FUND AT ASPEN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Licensed behavioral therapists and clinicians may apply on behalf on individuals needing mental health or substance abuse treatment.

## PATHFINDERS

*Based in Aspen, serving to Rifle*

**Overview:** Pathfinders is a support program for cancer and chronically-ill patients, those suffering from grief and loss, caregivers, family members and the community. By focusing on the social, emotional and spiritual issues accompanying a diagnosis or loss of a loved one, its programs foster healing and personal growth.

**Crisis Response:** In addition to counseling, Pathfinders is providing economic assistance to clients who have been impacted by the pandemic.

## HEALTH CARE

### ASPEN VALLEY HOSPITAL

*Based in and serving Aspen, Snowmass Village, and Basalt*

**Overview:** Aspen Valley Hospital provides comprehensive medical services and trauma care with 25 beds and more than 25 fields of medicine.

**Crisis Response:** Aspen Valley Hospital is working with Pitkin County to provide COVID-19 testing at locations in Aspen, Snowmass Village, and Basalt.

### MOUNTAIN FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

*Based in Basalt, Glenwood Springs and Rifle, serving Aspen to Parachute*



**Overview:** Mountain Family Health Center provides comprehensive primary care and a range of patient assistance mainly to people who are uninsured or medically indigent.

**Crisis Response:** As the only federally qualified health center in the region, Mountain Family continues to provide health care in its clinics in Basalt, Glenwood Springs and Rifle.

## CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

### ASPEN YOUTH CENTER

*Based in and serving Aspen to Carbondale*

**Overview:** Aspen Youth Center provides a safe, supportive and supervised space for youth afterschool and all day during the summer. Aspen Youth Center's qualified staff and volunteer role models offer fun extra-curricular activities such as cooking, science, art, sports, outdoor activities and volunteer clubs. Participants can also get help with their homework and are fed healthy afternoon snacks. Because admission to Aspen Youth Center is free, it is the only option some parents have for care of their children during work hours.

**Crisis Response:** Aspen Youth Center is open and has modified its program to comply with public health orders. Aspen Youth Center has been leading efforts to coordinate youth programs in Pitkin County to help ensure that enrollment is targeted at youth who need it most.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD NETWORK

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Basalt to Parachute*

**Overview:** Early Childhood Network provides referral services for families seeking childcare, training, coaching and quality improvement for childcare providers, serves as the shared services hub for Early Learning Ventures, and is the Early Head Start Coordinator for Garfield County.

**Crisis Response:** Throughout the pandemic, Early Childhood Network has continued to support childcare providers in Garfield County, many of whom did not shut down because of demand for childcare. Early Childhood Network also works closely with informal, unlicensed childcare providers to ensure the quality and safety of those environments.

### FAMILY VISITOR PROGRAMS

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Family Visitor Programs provide home-based parent support from pregnancy until the baby is two years old. The agency offers four core programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, Partners for Healthy Baby and Colorado Bright by Three.

**Crisis Response:** Family Visitor Programs is connecting with clients virtually and over the phone, assessing needs and connecting them to resources. When necessary, it is helping families access such things as diapers and baby formula. Family Visitor Programs is also providing economic assistance to the families it serves.

## RAISING A READER ASPEN TO PARACHUTE

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Raising a Reader Aspen to Parachute offers a take-home book bag program that fosters early brain development and parent-child bonding. To reach isolated and at-risk children who do not attend preschool or any childcare program, RAR offers the book bag program through churches, libraries and community centers Basalt to Rifle.

**Crisis Response:** Raising A Reader offers weekly virtual storytime sessions for families with young children. Working with the libraries, the take-home book bag program is also continuing, ensuring that families have books in the home.

## STEPPING STONES OF THE ROARING FORK VALLEY



*Based in and serving Carbondale*

**Overview:** Stepping Stones of the Roaring Fork Valley is a safe, drug- and alcohol-free place for teenagers to come after school where they receive one-on-one guidance for the problems they encounter, learn life skills, participate in experiential learning, and have access to professional counseling and support services.

**Crisis Response:** Stepping Stones is providing food and economic assistance to its clients and their families as well as helping them navigate unemployment and other supports.

## SUMMIT 54, SUMMER ADVANTAGE ROARING FORK VALLEY

*Based in Aspen, serving Basalt, Carbondale and Glenwood Springs schools*

**Overview:** Summit 54 has operated the Summer Advantage Roaring Fork Valley program, which provides five weeks of rigorous daily academic instruction and enrichment for kindergarten through fourth grade students. The program partners closely with school principals and individual teachers to ensure that students who are most at risk for falling behind receive access to the program, which is free of charge and includes breakfast, snack and lunch for all participants.

**Crisis Response:** Summit 54 has developed a new program called Summer Success, which will provide free small group tutoring in unique outdoor settings using an experienced, licensed teacher and a teaching assistant. Each group of approximately nine students will meet with the same teacher and TA in a unique outdoor setting and no group will have contact with another. Tutoring locations are in as close proximity as possible to participants' neighborhoods. Garfield County Health Department has approved our Covid-19 business plan. All CDC and CDH guidelines will be strictly enforced.

## VALLEY SETTLEMENT

*Based in Carbondale, serving Basalt to Glenwood Springs*

**Overview:** Valley Settlement helps low-income Latino immigrants settle in and connect to the community. Its primary goals are to increase school readiness and elementary school achievement, and family economic stability.



**Crisis Response:** Valley Settlement is distributing \$500 financial assistance checks to immigrant individuals and families in the Roaring Fork Valley

## OTHER

### A LITTLE HELP

*Based in Denver, serving Aspen to Carbondale*

**Overview:** A Little Help support older adults to age in place by connecting them with volunteers. These volunteers help with odd jobs around the house, care navigation, transportation, shopping and more.

**Crisis Response:** With many seniors feeling isolated, A Little Help’s volunteers have provided important social connections for the homebound as well as keeping residents supplied with food, medicine and other essentials.

### ALPINE LEGAL SERVICES

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Alpine Legal Services provides free or low-cost civil legal aid to protect the basic needs and fundamental rights of crime victims, seniors, youth and low-income people. Legal representation is provided for situations involving domestic violence, child safety, family law, senior issues, restraining orders, housing disputes, custody disputes, employer/employee conflicts, victims’ rights, and consumer law.

**Crisis Response:** Alpine Legal Services is working on helping prevent evictions from Parachute to Aspen.

### ASPEN HOMELESS SHELTER

*Based in Aspen, serving Pitkin County*

**Overview:** Aspen Homeless Shelter operates a winter-only overnight shelter and a year-round day center for the homeless in Pitkin County. The organization provides access to food, showers and laundry facilities at its day center.

**Crisis Response:** The shelter’s traditional winter location at St. Mary Church in Aspen was closed in mid-March. The shelter was able to relocate to the Health and Human Services building near the hospital, where it will remain open through April.

### SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

*Based in and serving Parachute and Battlement Mesa*

**Overview:** Senior Housing Options provides residential and assisted living facilities in Parachute and Battlement Mesa. Its facilities offer an array of programs and services including social and recreational activities, meals, personal care, and medical support.

**Crisis Response:** While Senior Housing Options has not changed its services due to the pandemic, because it serves a “vulnerable” population, the organization has had to purchase personal protective equipment and special cleaning supplies to protect its residents and staff.

## VOCES UNIDAS DE LAS MONTAÑAS

*Based in Glenwood Springs, serving Aspen to Parachute*

**Overview:** Voces Unidas is a new organization working to create opportunities for Latinas and Latinos to self-advocate, actively participate in all civic institutions and take leadership roles in all decision-making tables.

**Crisis Response:** Since the pandemic, Voces Unidas has jumped in to help connect the Latinx community to resources, distribute food to fill gaps in the system, and is providing economic assistance in the form of gift cards to those who cannot qualify for other assistance.

## BUSINESS SUPPORT

Businesses in the region – particularly restaurants and some retail – have also been adversely affected by the pandemic. Public health orders have required increased expenditures for protective equipment and protocols, operating capacity has been limited, and, in extreme cases, complete closures have been enacted. All of these resulted many businesses struggling to remain in operation.

Aspen Community Foundation, acting on behalf of donors and local government, oversaw the disbursement of \$1,850,000 in financial aid to businesses. This aid was made possible by the 2020 Rescue Fund, the Bringing Back Business Basalt Fund, and Pitkin County Government. In all, 122 businesses in Aspen, Basalt, and Snowmass Village were supported.