

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Bryce Benzine
Capital Area United Way
700 Laurel Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

P: 225-382-3507
F: 225-382-3523
E: bryceb@cauw.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Capital Area United Way Announces COVID-19 Phase Two Grant Funding Opportunity

Baton Rouge, La. (July 29, 2020) – Capital Area United Way announced its third round of COVID-19 grant funding to benefit area nonprofits currently in recovery from the pandemic. Grant awards will be capped at \$25,000 and those who received phase one funding are ineligible for the phase two process. Organizations who received Safe Operations grant funds from CAUW are eligible.

“The needs of non-profits continue to be a challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said George Bell, President and CEO of Capital Area United Way. “The funds raised in our COVID-19 Community Relief Fund are being spent to support our partners and nonprofits in the area, and we are continually evaluating where the greatest needs lie, particularly in relation to the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) members of our community.”

Funds will be utilized to support needs related to or from the effects of COVID-19 as it affects existing programming and organizational operations. Funds can be utilized for **meeting immediate, intermediate, or long-term recovery needs:**

- **Education:**
 - Services to keep children ages 0-18 in rich learning environments in the situation that their daycare or traditional school environment is closed or operating virtually, allowing ALICE families return to work.
 - Technology and connectivity for ALICE families to access K-12 and adult education services from home. Services must be new or supplemental as necessitated by COVID-19.
- **Income Stability:**
 - Services to increase employment opportunities for ALICE individuals who have lost their jobs or have had wages/income reduced to COVID 19.
 - Services for unemployed ALICE individuals to access increased education related to seeking and securing new jobs, especially individuals previously employed in industries impacted by closures and reduced hours due to COVID-19.
- **Health:**
 - Services to provide mental health support for persons of all ages affected by COVID-19.
- **Basic Needs:**
 - Services and/or financial assistance for ALICE individuals and families whose living situation has been threatened due to the effects of COVID-19. Services may include access to emergency housing or rent assistance, safe transportation to and from work or school, and basic family supports.

“We are thrilled to continue supporting front line tax-exempt organizations in their efforts to reopen their offices and provide for the community’s needs as the pandemic continues,” said Edy Addison, Director of Community Impact and Initiatives. “Because the pandemic will continue for the foreseeable future, we will continue to work with these agencies and others in the Capital area to determine where additional needs may be needed, especially to assist the ALICE population.”

Capital Area United Way awarded Phase One grant funding in early July. Agencies who received funding can be found at www.cauw.org/fundedpartners. Additionally, Safe Operations funding in the amount of \$40,000 has been awarded, leaving an additional \$40,000 to be distributed.

Grant dollars used are from the Capital Area United Way COVID-19 Community Relief Fund which was established to assist in the recovery from the pandemic for residents and organizations of our 10-parish area. Thanks to the generous support of individual, corporate, and philanthropic donors, along with a match from CAUW, grants will be made to 501c3 organizations in the Louisiana Capital Area for COVID relief.

Funding guidelines for both Phase 2 and Safe Operations are posted at www.cauw.org/funding-opportunities. Donations to the COVID-19 Community Relief Fund are still being accepted at www.cauw.org/covid19relief.

#

Capital Area United Way

For more than 95 years, Capital Area United Way has touched thousands of lives in our 10-parish area. We envision a community where everyone is empowered to reach their full potential. Our mission is to solve our community's toughest challenges by leveraging partnerships to advance the common good in education, income stability, and healthy living. To learn more visit www.cauw.org.