

Bainbridge Community Foundation's Response to COVID-19

[Update on the Community Grants Cycle](#)



Bainbridge Community Foundation's annual Community Grants Cycle (CGC) is currently underway!

Back in February when we opened the [2020 Community Grants Cycle](#) to applications, we couldn't have anticipated the dramatic changes that were unfolding in our community. While we know that there will be a return to normalcy sometime in the future, we also know the "when" is uncertain. As a result, BCF made COVID-19 preparedness and responsiveness a top priority of our 2020 Grant Cycle. We requested that each of our grant applicants examine the clear needs of its organization—whether an operational or service delivery need—and hone their application requests for grant funding accordingly. We asked organizations to really focus on what is most

important to them and to the community, and focused on a needs vs. wants lens. We extended the deadline for grant applications by two weeks, and gave organizations a chance to revise their requests if they had already submitted.

BCF received [61 applications across all sectors](#) for a total of [\\$453,398 in requests](#). Our 46 person Grants Evaluation Team is currently conducting virtual site visits and completing evaluations. All organizations are screened for financial health and current nonprofit status. Approved applications will be presented to the public through our online giving platform, Bainbridge Gives.

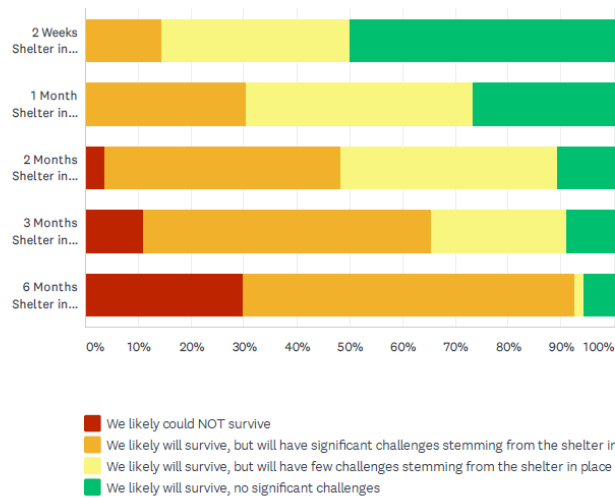
From [May 15 – June 15](#), you can support your favorite organization through www.bainbridgegives.org. Once on the site, you will be able to choose the nonprofit you want to support and you can make a tax deductible gift of \$10 to \$10,000. All credit card transaction fees covered by BCF, and 100% of your donation goes directly to the grant request.

[Results From COVID Nonprofit Survey \(March 2020\)](#)

On March 23rd, BCF and Kitsap Community Foundation partnered to distribute a survey to local nonprofit leaders on how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect their operations. The survey showed that an extended shelter-in-place in Washington State could mean some Bainbridge Island nonprofits would have to shut down operations indefinitely. An

analysis of the survey can be found on BCF's website [here](#).

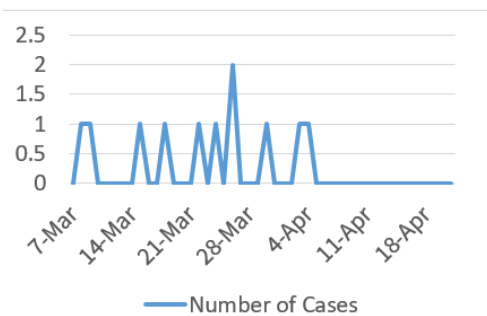
While the results of the survey were concerning, many nonprofit leaders have remained positive. According to one respondent to the survey, **“The way I see it, we're in this together.”** Since the survey was distributed, our nonprofit community has been working overtime to ensure essential needs and services are not suddenly discontinued. The sense of coordination and community in this time of crisis has been a reflection of Bainbridge Island’s strength. We look forward to continued collaboration as we move forward.



Update on Community Response Fund: The Community Response Fund (CRF) provides limited financial resources to nonprofit organizations for urgent health and human service needs on Bainbridge Island, especially during times of economic hardship or human or natural disaster. Covid-19 is one of those times. To date, **BCF has distributed over \$310,000** in grants to nonprofits through both its CRF and its Donor Advised funds.



COVID Update



The number of diagnosed COVID-19 cases on Bainbridge Island has thankfully remained low, and has stayed at zero since early April. The number of cases in Washington State has also been declining and Governor Inslee has announced a slow opening up of state activities. While this is promising news, there will still be some level of social distancing for the foreseeable future, and BCF is planning to continue support for nonprofits through its Community Response Fund and Community Grants Cycle.

To date, BCF’s response to COVID-19 has included the following:

- Activated Community Response Fund (CRF) Grants
- Conducted Survey to Assess Immediate Needs
- Released Restrictions on Unspent Grant Funds from 2019 Community Grants Cycle
- Refocused 2020 Community Grants Cycle (CGC) to Put COVID-19 Needs as a Priority
- Convene Weekly and Bi-Weekly Sector Meetings via Zoom
- Partnering to Support Community in Broader Ways

Through the Community Response Fund, BCF has provided support to social service nonprofits focusing on the distribution of emergency supplies, food for children and families, childcare for essential employees, and support systems for vulnerable communities. We plan to continue funding these initiatives, including food banks, housing and rental assistance, and program assistance through grants to 501(c)(3) organizations servicing the island. Funding needs emanate from the current emergency situation. These will be short-term grants and grantees will be able to submit subsequent requests.

The nonprofit survey made it clear that local organizations want to focus on collaboration and unity

[Launch of Bainbridge Island Resource Directory \(BIRD\)](#)



Local nonprofits have combined forces and recently launched a website to share information on services for youth, families, and seniors. The website--called the Bainbridge Island Resource Directory, or BIRD--was supported through BCF's annual Community Grants Cycle and was **a recipient of the Shel Klasky Award** for the collaboration of nonprofits towards a common goal.

BIRD already has 277 entries which highlight organizations from across the state that are most relevant to Bainbridge residents. BCF is proud to have supported the project along with the city of Bainbridge Island! Please visit their website at www.biresourcedirectory.org.



One final announcement! Bainbridge Community Foundation has created a **COVID-19 resources page**. Please visit our website at <https://bainbridgecf.org> and click on the COVID-19 link right next to our Home Page. You will find resources for donors, individuals, nonprofits, and businesses.

If you have any questions about this newsletter, please contact media@bainbridgecf.org.



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