



Victoria County
United Way

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW

The Golden Crescent Community Organizations Active in Disasters (GCCOAD) and the Victoria County United Way have created a COVID-19 Relief Fund that will deploy resources to residents and community-based organizations impacted by the coronavirus outbreak in the Golden Crescent region in Texas. The Golden Crescent covers a 7-county region, including: Victoria, DeWitt, Calhoun, Goliad, Gonzales, Lavaca, and Jackson counties. The Fund is designed to complement the work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the outbreak as efficiently as possible.

Grants to nonprofit organizations will help frontline human services organizations that have deep roots in the community and strong experience working with vulnerable populations to address gaps in services and increase their capacity to meet basic needs of individuals and families experiencing hardship as a result of the outbreak and related closures and disruptions.

Multiple phases of funding may be necessary to address the immediate (response), intermediate (relief), and long-term (recovery) needs of this crisis. **This first round of grants to nonprofit organizations will range in amount from \$1,000 to \$5,000.**

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Funding will go to organizations serving residents in the Golden Crescent region (Victoria, DeWitt, Goliad, Lavaca, Gonzales, Calhoun, and Jackson counties). The geographic area designated by the donor, if any, will be strongly considered. If needed, United Way will work with corporate donors who may have a regional reach to ensure funds are available for counties outside Victoria.

ORGANIZATION ELIGIBILITY FOR RELIEF FUNDS

Eligible organizations must meet the following requirements:

- 501c3 nonprofit
- Serve Victoria, DeWitt, Goliad, Lavaca, Gonzales, Calhoun, or Jackson county residents.
- Able to provide either their latest financial audit or most recent board approved financial statement (if not already a United Way partner agency)
- Able to expend/distribute funds to immediately respond to the individuals and families impacted by COVID-19
- Able to document and agree to report on how funds are used to meet the identified need(s) within 45-60 days of receiving funds

Requests from individuals, small businesses, and gaps otherwise funded by state and/or federal stimulus packages, such as the CARES Act, will not be eligible for COVID-19 Relief Funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Nonprofit organizations wishing to apply for funding will complete a brief online application by going to <https://www.unitedwayvictoria.org/covid19> and clicking on the Community Organization link midway down the page.

If funded, the organizations will be expected to:

- Provide either their latest financial audit or most recent board approved financial statement (non-Partner agencies)
- Sign and return a Grant Agreement regarding funding amount, agreed upon use of the funds, and reporting requirements.
- Complete a Direct Deposit Form and W-9 for United Way to expedite the distribution of funds (non-Partner agencies)

REVIEW CRITERIA

All requests are reviewed by a panel of community volunteers from the Golden Crescent COAD and the United Way's board. Reviewers evaluate requests based on the following:

- How well the request matches the purpose of providing COVID-19 related vital needs relief. *Requests for increased demand of services and/or modifications to continue services are prioritized upon initial launch of grant availability.*
- The degree to which no other resources are immediately available.
- How significant the impact on clients and the community will be if funding is not secured.
- The amount of the request in relationship to the available dollars at the time of the request.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

- Grants will be provided on a rolling basis as fundraising continues through the relief and recovery phases of the crisis
- Victoria County United Way has final authority on all fund distribution decisions

For questions regarding the COVID-19 Relief Fund, contact:

Brooke Garcia, Executive Director
361-578-3561 x302
brooke@unitedwayvictoria.org