

**Colorado COVID Relief Fund
Community Voices Committee Trends and Recommendations for Highest Priority Funding
May 3, 2020**

The Colorado COVID Relief Fund’s [Community Voices Committee](#) (CVC) is [charged with sharing insights into community needs](#) and opportunities with the Decision & Allocation Committee to support an informed decision-making process. Learn [more about the first three deadlines and grantees from each](#). We recommend that Fund applicants review this overview to understand the *most current* state of insights that are informing funding decisions. The trends and takeaways may shift from deadline to deadline. Check back before each deadline to read the latest insights. This report also outlines funding allocation recommendations from the CVC for upcoming funding deadline, May 30, 2020 (deadline five).

How CVC Works

The CVC is actively gathering, compiling, and reviewing data and feedback to provide key data-driven trends and takeaways that represent the most pressing needs and reflect the current situation of Coloradans.¹

Recent Trends and Takeaways

The following sections below are grouped by the voices being represented: community members, nonprofits, school districts, businesses, and funders.

Community Members

This section includes data collected from community members through surveys or interactions, along with estimated job loss. Response rates vary from 300 to 1,000 for the different reports.

Reported Needs

Housing Payment Assistance (21% of 2-1-1 requests); most commonly rent payment assistance, followed by low income/subsidized housing, and mortgage payment assistance	Food & Meals (20% of 2-1-1 requests); most commonly SNAP/Food stamps, followed by food pantries and low cost/free food	Utility Payment Assistance (11% of 2-1-1 requests); most commonly electric services payment assistance.
Populations with a strong majority stating being very or somewhat worried about paying rent or mortgage are households with incomes of less than \$30,000, 18-29 years old, urban and single women living on low(er) income, those with disabilities, , and African Americans ²	Populations with strong majority stating being very or somewhat worried about paying for food are households with incomes of less than \$30,000, those	Populations stating they are very or somewhat worried about paying for utilities are those with no health insurance , and household

¹References and Footnotes

It is important to note that not all populations and communities are represented in these insights, especially communities who are disproportionately impacted by this crisis. The majority of the data included was collected via online survey, in English only and generally single instance, fielded for a short length of time, and sent to those already within the organization’s network, among other limitations in data collection. Data collection, design, and analysis also varies for each source. The CVC is continuously seeking information from diverse sources to understand disparities within access to health, food, income support, and other needs that existed prior to COVID-19 and now exacerbated.

² Coronavirus Survey Results. April 30, 2020. Read more: <https://healthiercolorado.org/covid-19-survey-results/>

	with disabilities, urban and single women living on low(er) income, Hispanics, , and African Americans ²	incomes of less than \$30,000, Hispanics, 18-29 years old, African Americans, and caretakers ²
--	---	---

Nonprofit Sector

Several organizations surveyed nonprofits to collect feedback on what they are hearing as needs from their constituents during this time in addition to understanding the needs for their own organization’s operations.

Reported Needs

Community Need Themes	Populations Disproportionately Impacted	Needs of Nonprofits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to food ● Concerns about loss of income by individuals and families and need for direct income support ● Rent payment assistance and housing/shelter for people experiencing homelessness and/or domestic violence ● Access to medical services ● Rural communities voiced more concern over access to food and medical services due to geographic isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Refugees, immigrants, and undocumented workers ● Individuals and children in unsafe environments where they may be experiencing violence ● Older adults and elderly ● Those experiencing homelessness ● People with mental health and substance abuse issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prevention measures and PPE for their own organization and those their clients rely on ● Need for more volunteers or hiring additional staff – especially organization’s providing food access, medical organizations, shelters, and emergency family centers – due to decrease in volunteers due to safety and health an increase in demand for services ● Support for staff to maintain operations or meet increased demand – organizations reported a strain on capacity and as a result concerns about staff mental health and wellness as organizations both decreased staff size as well as a need to hire temporary staff to keep up with demand

School Districts

This section includes information on education supports and community needs for students and families.

Reported Needs

<p>Top needed education supports reported by districts and BOCES are³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student emotional support (52%) ● Technical supports for delivering remote learning (47%) ● Online instructional supports for teachers (42%) ● Family engagement practices (38%) 	<p>Districts reported being the least prepared to support³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students experiencing trauma, immediate increased family needs ● At-risk students who do not initially respond to virtual outreach ● Highly mobile students moving in/out of district ● Students experiencing homelessness 	<p>District and BOCES reported needs for³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Internet connectivity. 64,355 students without access at home. Rural districts stated hotspots are not viable as they rely on cellphone services and internet providers cannot provide fast enough service to accommodate the network needs for distance learning. ● Wi-Fi enabled device. 54,585 students statewide without access. ● Mental health and counselling services. 50% of regions prioritized for students or families.
--	---	--

Businesses

This section includes insights from the business community and captures information on workforce and unemployment data as well current and anticipated needs from surveyed populations. The Outdoor Recreation Industry Office and the Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT) distributed surveys to their networks.

Reported Needs

<p>Employee Layoffs, Furloughs, Reduced Hours^{4,5}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 25% of businesses have or anticipate laying off or furloughing more than 50% of their workforce ● 50% of businesses stated they have or anticipate cutting back employee hours ● An estimated 173,000 restaurant jobs lost since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak 	<p>Unemployment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The counties with the highest number of low-wage jobs lost (Urban Institute): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Denver County - 24,520 - Arapahoe County – 23,859 - El Paso County - 23,426 - Jefferson County - 20,596 - Adams County - 19,324 	<p>Top Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employees, including not having the funds to pay employee health care insurance and the ability for employees to pay rent/mortgages on reduced incomes⁵
---	---	---

³ In response to the pandemic, the Colorado Department of Education surveyed districts across the state between March 27th and April 4th. In findings pulled together by the Colorado Education Initiative, nearly 85% of districts responded, with 79% of responding districts representing rural communities. Roughly half of the respondents surveyed their families and reflected their feedback in the districts survey.

⁴ Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office Survey – 4/11/20.

⁵ Statewide OEDIT Survey – 4/9/20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A higher percentage of Native American or American Indians reporting permanent job loss (2.4%) or temporary job loss (14.6%) compared to the population as a whole⁶ 	
--	--	--

Funders

This section includes insights and survey data from various foundations and funders throughout the state.

Reported Needs

<p>Latino Community Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many immigrants remain excluded from Medicaid under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and financial assistance from the CARES Act. Only 16% of Latino workers can telework, and 66% of Latino adults say they would not get paid if the coronavirus caused them to miss work for two weeks or more. • Paying for other day-to-day household items and baby needs • Concerns for college students who are out of work (work study or hospitality jobs) • DACA renewal costs is an issue • Fear of accessing services because of uncertainty of safety and future implication for receiving assistance • Concern for hospitality workers and others who still must report to work and unclear of precautionary practices 	<p>Women’s Foundation of Colorado</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and their families urgently need assistance to meet basic human needs, especially support securing/remaining in stable housing, food assistance, and supplies such as diapers, wipes and hygiene products • Needs are more pronounced for women of color and women in rural communities • Access to a range of health resources needs to support women’s overall, reproductive and mental and behavioral health • Domestic violence resources are in higher demand throughout the state.
---	---

Recommendations to Receive Priority for Funding Allocations for Upcoming Funding Deadline (May 30)

The CVC provided recommendations for priority funding allocation during upcoming funding deadline, May 30. There are two funding priorities open currently: Impact and Recovery.

	Funding Priority: IMPACT			Funding Priorities: IMPACT and RECOVERY	Funding Priority: RECOVERY
Priority Issue	Housing Support	Food Access	Utility Support	Mental Health	Reopening Businesses and Nonprofits in Counties
Priority Populations or Counties in Colorado	<p>POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomes of less than \$30,000 • 18-29 years old 	<p>POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incomes of less than \$30,000 	<p>POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People without health insurance 	<p>IMPACT PRIORITY POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families with school-aged children • Low-income populations • Adults experiencing domestic violence 	<p>Urban counties with most significant job loss of low wage earners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denver County

⁶ CDPHE Community Survey.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban and single women living on low or low(ered) income • People with disabilities • African Americans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities • Urban and single women living on low(ered) income • Hispanics/Latinos • African Americans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • incomes of less than \$30,000 • Hispanics/Latinos • 18-29 year olds • African Americans • Caretakers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults experiencing abuse <p style="text-align: center;">RECOVERY PRIORITY POPULATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People earning lower-incomes who are returning to work • Families with lower-incomes who have school-aged children • Women of color who disproportionately hold lower-wage jobs • Undocumented families and workers, people experiencing job or income loss • People who are at high risk of infection (seniors, housing insecure, those without health care, those over 65) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arapahoe County • El Paso County - • Jefferson County • Adams County <p>Rural and mountain communities</p>
Resources/ Supplies/ Modifications Required for Reopening				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental resources for families with lower incomes with school-age children and for those experiencing job loss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical, cleaning or social distancing supplies • Technology that supports low touch interface with return to work or return to less spacing • Safety assessments for returning to work • Worker supports such as retraining, new tools and technology, and transportation to jobs • Retooling office space for safe social distancing particularly for classrooms, domestic violence shelters, housing shelters as well as other shelters and facilities