COVID-19 COMMUNITY COMPASSION FUND

The Heartland United Way and the Greater Grand Island Community Foundation have partnered to launch a relief fund, the COVID-19 Community Compassion Fund, to help organizations and individuals most in need of assistance.

Process
An Ad Hoc Advisory Committee will be formed with community leaders that will work with staff from both organizations to advise on the direction and implementation of support to address the needs in the community. The committee will administer grants from the fund in phases to help address immediate needs and short-term and longer-term impacts of the outbreak and recovery. Grants will be released on a rolling basis as the situation unfolds, making it possible to move resources as quickly as possible and adapt to evolving community needs. The process overall will be dependent upon available dollars. Our goal is to notify applicants of granting decisions as expeditiously as possible.

Funding Priorities
This fund provides nonprofit organizations with flexible resources to address the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis on our community or other publicly declared crisis, including immediate basic needs, gaps in service, and operational challenges. Preference will be given to the provision of direct services in this context.

Eligibility
The COVID-19 Community Compassion Fund is able to support organizations meeting the following criteria:

• Nonprofit organizations with a 501(c)(3) designation in good standing with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or community-based groups, governmental bodies, municipalities, or schools fiscally sponsored by a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in good standing with the IRS.
• Directly serve the people of Heartland United Way and Greater Grand Island Community Foundation’s service areas.
• Conduct business without discrimination with regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, political beliefs, disability, veteran status, marital status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, or any other category protected by law.
Our Commitment to the Community

Throughout this process, the Heartland United Way and Greater Grand Island Community Foundation are committed to:

- Developing a central pool of funds nonprofits can access for support throughout the crisis.
- Listening to our community partners to help determine the most pressing emergency needs and their impact.
- Working cooperatively with other organizations to help assess and help to address immediate needs and longer-term needs beyond the grant.
- An expedited process for the distribution of COVID-19 Community Compassion Fund grants.
- Reporting how and where COVID-19 Community Compassion Fund grants are utilized, using the same level of diligence as we do with all of our granting processes.

Additional Information:

- Grants from the COVID-19 Community Compassion Fund are made possible by a lead grant from CHI Health St. Francis which has designated their funds to the Central Navigation program for direct client assistance. It is anticipated that additional dollars from the Heartland United Way and Greater Grand Island Community Foundation along with generous donations from other foundations and community partners will grow the fund.
- All funds must be spent within Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties for Heartland United Way funds. Sherman County may be eligible for funds from GGICF.
- The Heartland United Way and Greater Grand Island Community Foundation are collaborating together on our respective Emergency Response granting processes in support of the community.

Together we can make a difference in our community.

Donations can be made to the funds in the following ways:
**Text:** HEARTLANDUW to 56651
**Check:** Send to Greater Grand Island Community Foundation or Heartland United Way Donor Advised Fund: Directed to COVID-19 Community Compassion Fund

All questions about the application process should be directed to Karen Rathke at Karen@heartlandunitedway.org (308) 380-0778 or Melissa DeLaet at mdelaet@gicf.org (308) 227-9976