



To: HCBF Board of Directors
From: Meghan Reese, Executive Director and Tamanna Rahman, Program Director
Date: May 20, 2020
Subject: Staff Memo – Community Needs and Future HCBF Grantmaking (Item 5)

In 2019, HCBF Staff and Board developed plans to move forward with a collective impact project, as well revising the Community Benefit Grant program and releasing Round 1 of the Air Quality Mitigation Program. In light of the ongoing pandemic, HCBF Staff temporarily paused the CIP outreach at the end of March 2020 to focus on responding to the COVID-19 crisis facing our communities. Staff will be discussing some options for future HCBF grantmaking and checking in with the Board regarding the CIP to explore options. HCBF will continue efforts to oversee its mission, taking into consideration the adoption of a new way of life for our communities, including the organizations we serve and their ability to meaningfully participate in our work. In the sections below, HCBF Staff present some key information on local community needs as a result of the public health emergency, which may inform future grant activity.

COVID-19 OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

As the COVID-19 situation developed and stay-at-home orders were put in place, HCBF Staff directly outreached to **local healthcare facilities, past grantees, and other community partners** to learn about the **resources/services available for the community, the key challenges organizations were experiencing, and identifying areas of need** to help inform HCBF's response during this public health emergency.

In addition to direct outreach, Staff released a targeted community survey to better understand how the COVID-19 situation is affecting local organizations. Organizational representatives shared information on any urgent needs, also providing information on how HCBF can best support organizations that are serving Wilmington and San Pedro during these challenging times. This information gathering process informed HCBF's COVID-19 response to date: release of a community resource sheet and a COVID-19 Resource webpage for our community, connecting local partners to other philanthropic resources, modification of the Community Benefit Round 7 LOI, and informed the Harbor Community COVID-19 Relief Fund RFA.

EMERGING COMMUNITY ISSUES RELATED TO COVID-19

In general, local organizations and agencies are mobilizing to provide food, basic necessities, and services to those in need while implementing social distancing protections, though with limited capacity and resources. In the sections below, Staff share the key takeaways from its outreach effort. This is **not an exhaustive list**, but merely highlights some of the major issues Staff has been hearing.

Healthcare Organizations/Health Centers (community Hospitals, clinics, and local health department):

- With a shift to telehealth services:
 - Hospitals are using iPads for telehealth for patients who come in to get care. iPads are also being used to help patients communicate with their families.
 - Most community clinics that serve population with higher prevalence of respiratory diseases and other health conditions have limited capacity to adopt telehealth technology for patient care. One community clinic in Wilmington has been temporarily closed.

- Need for telehealth-use training for personnel and also patients.
- Clinics/hospitals that were able to acquire PPEs need financial support to pay for that equipment.
- Cancellation of elective procedures have put financial strain on facilities.
- Asthma management programs doing COVID-19 response, but limited to current enrollees only:
 - Those that offer asthma management programs shifted to remote case management with families **currently** enrolled in their program (no new enrollees).
 - Caseworkers identify the urgent needs of the household while conducting asthma management education. Individuals are then scheduled to pick-up the necessary items (medications, food, baby items, and other basic goods). For vulnerable populations unable to pick-up items due to their increased risk for COVID-19 (have respiratory disease or are immune-compromised) or with limited access to transportation, staff are doing deliveries. However, these programs and staff are already at limited capacity due to organizational furloughs and no volunteers.
 - There is gap in information about how vulnerable individuals (children, elderly, etc.) currently not enrolled in an asthma management program and are getting access to medications for respiratory or other chronic illnesses. This is especially of concern with people that are non-English speaking, immigrants, or with limited mobility.

Key takeaways from the COVID-19 Wilmington & San Pedro Community Survey:

The targeted community outreach and survey efforts helped HCBF Staff better understand how the COVID-19 situation is affecting our local organizations. Organizational representatives shared information on any urgent needs and also provided information on how HCBF can best support organizations that are serving Wilmington and San Pedro during these challenging times.

The list below includes major category of issues areas that emerged from the survey. These are the general categories that are eligible for COVID-19 Relief funding.

- Need for food, meals, rental payments, and other vital basic necessities.
- Technological infrastructure to help organizations follow COVID-19 guidelines (physical distancing) while also serving their mission.
 - Schools and other organizations having to shift to virtual programming and operations.
 - Healthcare and telehealth services
- Ensuring equitable access to health services and information, and
- Other urgent materials and services needed to help communities and organizations overcome barriers due to the pandemic.

Staff can provide the detailed summary from the community survey responses upon request.

Potential Projects/Activities

Based on the information gathered, Staff have highlighted some potential project ideas and activities.

Examples of projects/activities that is potentially eligible under PCMTF criteria:

- Financial support for telehealth in clinics in underserved areas.
- Telehealth training for asthma management programs and local community clinics (eClinicalWorks Admin, trainer for providers and patients about how to use telehealth platforms).

Examples of projects/activities that may require other funding sources:

- Fund food pantries for the distribution of food and other basic necessities for vulnerable families in W/SP

- Tablets for W/SP students, enabling students to have equal access to online learning and connecting to teachers/classmates.
- Provide financial support to community clinics to partner with local service centers to outreach to immigrant communities or those that are uninsured, to provide equitable access to asthma management and COVID information and language interpretation and other needed health services.
- Tech infrastructure to help organizations follow COVID-19 guidelines (physical distancing) while also serving their mission.
- Collaborate with local CBOs and other partners to provide urgently needed supplies/services for the community.

Examples of projects/activities that do not require additional funding

- Help advertise online donation and fundraising events.
- Provide virtual internship opportunity.
- Help engage speakers for online events planned by organizations.
- Create a grant process that is mindful of the challenges faced by local organizations.
- Promote relevant funding opportunities on HCBF blog/SM/mailchimp
- Help identify local communities in urgent need of solar/batter storage systems.
- Help identify organizations and funding partners that can help with the cost of installing solar energy/battery storage systems.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff would like to take this opportunity to discuss and understand the Board's perspective on HCBF's collective impact project and future grantmaking efforts in light of the ongoing pandemic.

Collective Impact Project:

Staff would like to get Board input on the CIP, whether to explore a potential shift in the CIP, or to pause or cancel the initiative. Some options for consideration:

- Put a hold on the collective impact project and revisit early 2021;
- Revise CIP to be more healthcare-focused and develop partnerships based on efforts and conversations currenting taking place in the community; or
- Cancel CIP

HCBF Grant Programs:

Staff would like to get Board input on the potential of having a mini-round related to healthcare. In the past we have done separate grant programs, one being focused on community benefit grants and another one being more healthcare focused. Given the current situation, we may consider looking at our grants programs to determine if we want to modify.

During the discussion on CIP, future HCBF grantmaking, and next steps, please note the **staff will continue with AQMF and CB grant programs** and will also **continue to monitor COVID-19 related needs in the community**.