



Human Service provider call, COVID Disaster Fund Conference call  
March 19, 2020. 9am  
Conference Call  
Minutes

All attendees were welcomed by Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States. All attendees were asked to send updates of hours/services/questions via email to Jessica Bleile, [jessica.bleile@dbqunitedway.org](mailto:jessica.bleile@dbqunitedway.org). Any updates will also be shared with 2-1-1 to keep their information as up to date as possible.

**Survey-** 50 people responded to the Human Service Provider survey sent out regarding services needed. Please use this link to see responses: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-356R7DT9/>

**What are we doing?** Nancy Van Milligan and Danielle Peterson reported the Community Foundation and United Way are working in collaboration to raise and distribute funds through the Disaster Relief Fund with the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD). These funds will be primarily focused on helping nonprofits support meeting the needs of the community. Both organizations will be reaching out this afternoon via email to key players in the community to get funds immediately set in motion to provide access to services to those in need. If you do not receive an email, but believe you can provide disaster services immediately, please reach out to us; However, the group is also putting together an application process for funds to nonprofits, which will be shared Friday, March 20. The application, the FAQ's and donation pages can be found on the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque's website. We currently have approximately \$300,000 committed to this fund and are working on continuing to build it.

Please encourage the community to donate to <https://www.dbqfoundation.org/fund/greater-dubuque-disaster-relief-fund>. Having one funding mechanism, allows for streamlined and collective support, and will offer the community a greater chance at having services they need.

**General Community Needs:** There was discussion on short- and long-term needs associated with the general public and the overall economy. We talked about smaller restaurants and their offers for carryout and some even doing delivery to assist them during this time.

There is also a survey businesses that we hope people will take/share with others to collect information about business needs: <https://mailchi.mp/greaterdubuque/ieda-survey-request>

**Advocacy efforts:** There was some discussion around Family First Legislation and its impact on nonprofits. Nancy and Danielle shared that entities such as ours and leaders at GDDC and IowaWorks could work to gather accurate information to share so that nonprofits could continue allocating their resource on serving the community.

- Here is the latest policy info from the United Way Network: At United Way Worldwide (UWW), we are all-hands-on-deck working in support of the network's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus). In the public policy arena, we are pleased that the [U.S. Congress passed an important coronavirus relief bill yesterday](#), including critical funding for nutrition programs and emergency employee leave provisions. United Ways responded to our call to action in big numbers and we helped overcome a hold up in the Senate.
- We are rapidly moving forward on our next policy actions. The UWW policy team worked with a small group of leading charities to craft an economic relief proposal for the nonprofit sector. More than 100 national charities have signed on and we are getting traction on Capitol Hill and with the Administration. [Click here to see the letter we sent to Congress and the White House yesterday](#).
- Next steps: As you read this, Congress is working to finalize a \$1 trillion package, and it is crucial that charities are included.
  - Let Danielle know if your organization is interested in doing outreach to federal legislators as we have key talking points we would be happy to share with you. Please know that we are making these calls as well to help inform support here locally.
  - In addition to the \$60 billion economic relief package, United Way networks are working on inclusion of other key priorities for United Ways, including:
    - \$110 million in funding for 211
    - \$100 million in stimulus funding for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, along with a \$70 million increase in EFSP's annual funding
    - An extension of tax filing deadline (not tax payment deadline), so that VITA sites can provide needed tax prep into the summer
    - Inclusion of Earned Income Tax Assistance Credit and Child Tax Credit expansion provisions
    - Inclusion of cash assistance for individuals and families during the emergency that does not negatively impact an individuals' eligibility for other assistance programs such as SNAP, TANF, WIC and is not taxed as income.

**\*\*\*Needed supplies:** After the call, United Way received notification that Alliant Energy is sending us \$10,000 for disaster relief support. Our intent with those dollars is to bulk purchase supplies for nonprofits to have access to to give out to those needing them, perhaps coordinating with the food disbursement area and childcare locations for dual purpose support. Stay tuned for more info regarding this but our intent around this is to save all nonprofits the time/energy in doing outreach for supplies and instead can direct people to access things where they are available, coordinating services as best we can.

Please also see the update on services that are being provided in our area. If any of this information is incorrect or your programs have made changes, please let Jessica Bleile know right away so we can also update the community via our webpage and 2-1-1,

**Contact Information:**

COVID19 Info: Iowa Department of Health [www.idph.iowa.gov](http://www.idph.iowa.gov) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

VNA's Kim Gonzales is the area's lead for questions and concerns related to childcare: 563-556-6200

2-1-1 Information and Referral Line: 24/7 Multilingual line; Call 211 or 1-800-244-7431; Can text your zip code to 898211 during 8 am – 4 pm; FREE 211 Iowa app

Hillcrest Mobile Crisis number: 1-855-800-1239

ECIA Homeless Hotline-  
Delaware and Dubuque Counties- 1-833-587-8322  
Jackson and Clinton Counties 1-833-849-8976

City Updates: [www.cityofdubuque.org](http://www.cityofdubuque.org)

Iowa Workforce Development: [www.iowaworkforcedevelopent.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopent.gov) There are pages there for specific resources related to employers and employees as it relates to unemployment.

<https://www.delawarecountyiowatourism.com/amish-stores/>

**City Grant Information:**

The neighborhood grants are available now. There is a competitive application for the Large Neighborhood Grants (up to \$3,000) and those applications are due April 13. More information is available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoods](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/neighborhoods).

**Census 2020:**

The 2020 Census online, phone-in or mail-in activity is especially well suited to the current health crisis as it regards the State of Iowa's regulations on group size limits and social distancing. I have received a number of calls, some from elderly citizens, and they seem to prefer the phone response option (844-330-2020) which I have been told is relatively simple.

***We will schedule a meeting to occur next Thursday, March 26, 2020 at 9am. Please use the following call in information if you're interested:***

***Phone- 1-888-676-3321***

***Access: 9735693#***

*As mentioned on the call, thank you all for what you're doing to support the community We recognize what an emotional toll these times of crisis have on our general community as well as our nonprofit sector who are at the front lines. Take care of yourself and your staff and know we are doing what we can to offer support.*

*Danielle Peterson*

*Feel free to reach out to me at [Danielle.peterson@dbqunitedway.org](mailto:Danielle.peterson@dbqunitedway.org) or my cell is 563-599-1346 should you have further questions.*