

Chris Linden | August 11, 2020

From the earliest days of the stay-at-home orders, social service agencies in Elgin began planning for what was to come. They could see regional and statewide relief funds popping up, but they were doubtful there'd be enough to go around.

"There was a concern that maybe some of the other funds that were regional or statewide wouldn't make their way out to Elgin, and the suburbs in general," says Steve Moon, director of Elgin programs for Grand Victoria Foundation.

"That was a big concern for many community members in Elgin, so we thought it would be a good initiative to get something together for the city."

In mid-May, the Grand Victoria Foundation teamed up with the City of Elgin, United Way Metro Chicago, Seigle Family Foundation, Kaptain Family Trust, Wisdom Family Foundation and Hoffer Family Foundation to provide nearly \$90,000 in direct financial assistance to families in need. Money from the Elgin COVID Response Fund will go to area nonprofits, with 100% of funds helping those in need. A second round of donations is expected to go out later this year.

"They were immediately in action, and as someone who is new to the community, it was so inspirational and powerful to see that," says Moon.

Elgin isn't alone. All around the northwest suburbs, neighbors are rallying to help those affected economically by COVID-19.

Five Aurora-area grantors partnered up to provide rapid-response funding to nearly 50 area nonprofits. Calling themselves the Fox Valley Grantmakers, the group focused on nonprofits that support basic human needs and mental health. Since March, they've awarded nearly \$600,000 for things like safety gear, food, housing and technology needs.

## Filling in the Gaps with COVID Relief Funds



Nonprofits like DuPage Senior Meal Services have benefitted from relief funds that are helping to meet an increased demand for food, shelter and other basic needs. (Community Foundation of Fox Valley photo)