The Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund (CCRF) was created in March 2020 by United Way and The Chicago Community Trust to increase access to emergency food and basic supplies, ensuring that our friends, families, and neighbors had the essential resources they needed during the height of the COVID-19 crisis.

Chicago Region **United**

CHICAGO COMMUNITY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

In 2020, the Chicago region faced unprecedented health, economic, and social justice crises. Centuries of racism and disinvestment created inequalities across our region that were amplified by COVID-19. But when faced with so much uncertainty, our community quickly came together to support their neighbors in need.

When CCRF launched, its impact was unknown. It was the largest COVID-19 relief effort in Chicago and one of the largest in the country. We are grateful for our partners whose generosity and tireless efforts made the Fund so successful.

Crisis support to neighborhoods across the Chicago region.

The needs at the onset of the pandemic varied widely and continued to evolve as the months passed. The goal of the Response Fund was to provide flexible resources to local nonprofit organizations across the Chicago region so that they could have the support they needed to best serve the individuals and households hardest hit by the pandemic.

Region-wide partnerships helped ensure thousands of families could access food, stay in their homes, and receive critical health services. Thanks to the support of thousands of donors, the Chicago Community COVID-19 Response Fund was able to make a significant impact across the Chicago region.

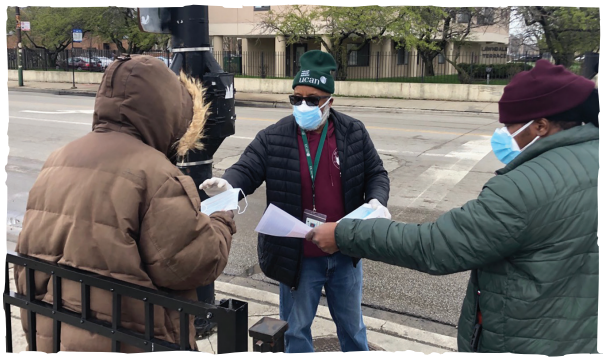
- More than **$35 million** raised and invested in 6 months
- More than **400 agencies** funded
- **100% of proceeds** were invested in the community
- More than **6,000 donors**, including individuals, families, businesses, and foundations

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Learn more and support United Way's work to build a stronger, more equitable Chicago region at **LIVEUNITEDchicago.org/regional-recovery**

From rapid response **to long-term recovery.**

At United Way, we are committed to the long-term recovery of the Chicago region. We believe in a dual approach strategy that (1) helps our neighbors meet their basic needs such as food and shelter and (2) helps our neighborhoods become stronger and more equitable through the Neighborhood Network Initiative.

Our goal at United Way of Metro Chicago is not to create pathways out of our neighborhoods, but to support and fund collective efforts—neighborhood-led coalitions—that galvanize resources, ideas, and energy so every one of our neighborhoods and our region becomes stronger.



THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND SUPPORT INCLUDED

- **Chicago Connected** was launched in partnership with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Chicago Public Schools, Kids First Chicago, and the region's philanthropic community to provide **nearly 228,000 eligible students with high-speed internet for four years.**
- **Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation** launched its Rapid Resource Information Line to provide **critical health and wellness information to residents.**
- Provided **$1 million in rent and mortgage assistance to hundreds of families** through a partnership between the City of Chicago's Department of Housing and the Family Independence Initiative.
- The Chicago Community Trust launched **We Rise Together: For an Equitable and Just Recovery** to accelerate **equitable economic recovery for Black and Latinx communities** and to reform and re-envision policies and business practices for more equitable investments.
- **WeGo Together for Kids** in West Chicago hosted **pop-up food distributions for families** and delivered care packages with essential items, like diapers and toilet paper, to families' homes.
- **Howard Brown Health Center** screened nearly **7,000 individuals across the city**. COVID-19 testing is a vital service needed to reduce the spread of the virus and keep our neighbors healthy.
- **Latinos Progresando** and its partners distributed **thousands of masks to 14 neighborhood schools and organizations** that served as food pick-up sites and provided other essential services.
- **Beyond Hunger** served over **17,500 meals to workers, families, and seniors** in just one week.
- **Mano a Mano Family Resource Center** provided **direct financial assistance** for food, medical costs, and DACA renewal fees to nearly **400 undocumented-led households,** most of whom won't receive government assistance to make ends meet.
- Provided financial support for the design and development of **Cook County's first 211 system**, launching in 2022.
- **Cradles to Crayons** distributed tens of **thousands of diapers, hygiene and school supply kits,** and more to children experiencing poverty.

AND SO MUCH MORE.

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