WINNEBAGO COUNTY COVID-19 DISASTER RESPONSE FUND
GRANT GUIDELINES

About the Fund
The Winnebago County COVID-19 Disaster Response Fund provides support to organizations assisting in the response and recovery efforts of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. The intent of the fund is to be responsive to nonprofits serving Winnebago County that are providing basic needs services and organizations working with individuals and families who have been disproportionately impacted by the public health and economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. This fund of the Winnebago County Community Foundation is made possible through a collaboration of the Winnebago County Community Foundation and local donors.

About the Grants
Funds will be released on a rolling basis as fundraising continues throughout the outbreak and recovery phases of this crisis, making it possible to move resources quickly and to adapt to evolving needs in subsequent funding phases. The grants are designed to provide support for agencies in the months following the submission of the application.

Eligibility to Apply
Organizations must provide benefits to the residents of Winnebago County and must meet the following criteria in order to apply for a grant:

- Be classified as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or be a government entity.
- Be current with all state and federal reporting requirements.
- Must not have any past due grant reports for previous Winnebago County Community Foundation grants.

Requests submitted through a fiscal sponsor are not eligible.

Restrictions & Application Frequency
In addition to the eligibility requirements, the following restrictions also apply:

- Requests should be a minimum of $1,000.
- Inherently religious activities such as religious worship, instruction, or proselytization or activities that promote specific religious doctrine are not eligible.
- Requests for partisan political or lobbying activities are not eligible.
- Operational requests from other foundations are not eligible.

Agencies can submit one application at a time with the following frequency limitations:

- Agencies that are successful in receiving a grant can resubmit after 6 weeks of the initial submission.
- Agencies that are unsuccessful in securing a grant can resubmit after 4 weeks of the initial submission or by invitation from the Winnebago County COVID-19 Response Advisory Committee.
**Funding Preferences and Priorities**
The initial funding priorities will be as outlined:

1. Organizations providing basic needs services to communities already vulnerable before the pandemic, or who are disproportionately affected by the pandemic and the impact of the resulting public health measures on finances and service availability.
2. Organizations providing any services to such vulnerable or disproportionately affected populations as described above.
3. Organizations providing emergency/coordinates response efforts in response to the pandemic.

Examples of priorities may include:
- Nonprofits that are growing their capacity during the pandemic to meet increased human needs-staffing, services and equipment.
- Childcare agencies dealing with increased costs and demands due to the pandemic in order to maintain and encourage safe environments for children and families.
- Agencies providing basic human needs of community members, including schools providing lunch for students during this time.
- Organizations providing COVID-19 related case management services – coordinated efforts to maximize efficiency.

**How to Apply**
Applicants interested in seeking grants from the Winnebago County COVID-19 Advisory Committee should fully review these grant guidelines prior to submitting an application to ensure all eligibility requirements are met. The application is designed to be completed quickly without a lot of work. Applications must be submitted through the foundation’s online grant management system, which can be located in the grants section of [www.winnebogoccf.org](http://www.winnebogoccf.org).

**Important Dates**
- There is no grant application deadline. Grants are issued on a rolling basis.
- Grant decisions will be made as quickly as possible and checks will be issued in the same manner.

**About Reporting**
Grant reports will be waived for all COVID-19 Response Fund grants.

**Questions?**
With specific questions on submission procedures or eligibility, organizations are advised to contact Program Manager Dotti Thompson at 319-243-1358 or dthompson@cfneia.org.