**Foundation Grant Opportunities** *Provided**by RGI Corporate and Foundation Specialist Marci Bernard*

The COVID-19 pandemic is touching us all at the family, local, state, and international levels,

and foundations are doing their best to respond to the shifting needs of grant recipients and those they serve. On the national front, large foundations, such as the Gates, Rockefeller, and Kaiser Family foundations have committed billions of dollars to relief and research related to COVID-19. Locally and regionally, foundations and corporate giving programs are doing their best to shift priorities, offer new opportunities to request support, extend submission deadlines. A handful of funders, including Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation and Dunkin’ Donuts, that responded to the changing needs individuals and communities quickly, have already awarded what they had available.

Below is some information on local and regional funders that have new or extended opportunities available. Please check back regularly for additions and updates.

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**Maine Community Foundation (**[**https://www.mainecf.org/**](https://www.mainecf.org/)**)**

**COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund**: MaineCF has created a fund (COVID-19 Fund) to support community-based organizations working with the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences here in Maine. This fund will support nonprofit organizations that are involved in frontline efforts to serve the needs of those most affected by the virus and contain the spread of COVID-19, including area agencies on aging, community action programs, homeless shelters, food pantries, and other organizations that address hunger and provide food. Grants are being made proactively, and not through an application process. Contact the foundation for more information.

**United Way**

[Each of Maine‘s nine United Ways](https://www.unitedwaysofmaine.org/contact/) has a local response to the pandemic, based upon the needs of the communities they serve. For Knox County, please also visit [United Midcoast Charities](https://unitedmidcoastcharities.org/covid-19-response/).

Some local and regional foundations also have announced the availability of additional funds during this time.

**Maine Health Access Foundation** (<https://mehaf.org/covid-19>)

Maine Health Access Foundation (MeHAF) has funding available to help maintain or expand access to health care, behavioral health, or substance use disorder services for vulnerable populations in response to challenges and additional barriers created by the COVID-19 pandemic.  The intent of this opportunity is to fund organizations with limited resources to support these unexpected needs. Proposals are being accepted on a rolling basis.

**Maine Initiatives** (<http://maineinitiatives.org/grant-announcement-308920-in-rapid-response-funds-to-grassroots-organizations/>)

Maine Initiatives is making immediate grant funding availability to all their grantees to ensure that they have access to the essential technology (hardware and software) they need as they shift to remote work and remote organizing. Moving forward, Maine Initiatives will make additional grants to organizations playing leadership roles in organizing and advocating for those who are most directly impacted by this crisis.

**Maine Women's Fund** ([Maine Women's Fund](https://4agc.com/landing_pages/6672de10-e702-4bdb-935a-1add2e1e270f#.Xpyy8chKjIU))

The Maine Women’s Fund is raising funds to create the SAFETY FIRST FOR WOMEN FUND, which will allow the Fund to address emergency needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and quickly shift resources and attention to two of the biggest needs facing women across Maine today: **domestic violence and the needs of direct care workers**. Funds are still being raised. When the fund is operational, it will support the following:

* Organizations and families experiencing increased **Domestic Violence** (rates of domestic violence are surging globally) with a grant to the [Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fj7nn9eC3-Zoge9DfFJCZF8KdeKjXY_G8T93cHyKMybfY_eMgk2SuDsVHrFZ3HsgblHArRjwC4wooENREdWpJ0agTQ1LqNCZQP-AGd5JeReN7do9ZcBeRZU2IhlpxDdxtAaVsucwmWg=&c=-XOJTGkU_4LyD5no-tJL3vvcv-WCVu7e9IwjDY_-optEmcqN4-US4Q==&ch=g3zV3M7CPSHcIyJdeMvVqCP_QPQU1IFRlNQiadpn2dnwb8NCYJ00ww==) to distribute directly to their nine member organizations and the Wabanaki Women's Coalition; and
* Advocacy for policy change that supports the needs of **Direct Care** workers through a grant to [Maine Council on Aging](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001fj7nn9eC3-Zoge9DfFJCZF8KdeKjXY_G8T93cHyKMybfY_eMgk2SuDsVHrFZ3HsgU6JD1DjluoS-p3yKZv9CYlnGfGMZI99Lf5ENRPAeO2gy_m1xR-YCd1_Oz8px0OoSW7QOzhyEeUIdjg0Zq6cJmf3BZUfgpMhK&c=-XOJTGkU_4LyD5no-tJL3vvcv-WCVu7e9IwjDY_-optEmcqN4-US4Q==&ch=g3zV3M7CPSHcIyJdeMvVqCP_QPQU1IFRlNQiadpn2dnwb8NCYJ00ww==), including working with State and Federal leaders to improve access to Personal Protective Equipment and COVID-19 testing, while quickly building out the existing workforce.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (<https://www.neh.gov/program/neh-cares-cultural-organizations?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>)

The National Endowment for the Humanities has new grant guidelines designed to rapidly distribute CARES Act funding to cultural nonprofits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This new funding opportunity, [NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDUsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MjAuMjA0MDM0OTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5uZWguZ292L3Byb2dyYW0vbmVoLWNhcmVzLWN1bHR1cmFsLW9yZ2FuaXphdGlvbnM_dXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.AcbyzgcD-h-BS4ulTRJ1Oece07fl6Cz9wZbjAq7lgvU/br/77636668943-l" \t "_blank), will provide grants of up to $300,000 to sustain humanities organizations and preserve jobs in the cultural sector.  Applications are due May 11, 2020 through the [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) portal.

**New England Grassroots Environmental Fund** (<https://grassrootsfund.org/dollars/rapid-response-funding>)

The New England Grassroots Environmental Fund is making seed grant program funding available to grassroots groups responding to local needs and building resilience in their community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated events. Requests are restricted to organizations with a budget of less than $100,000 and no more than 2 full-time staff equivalents*.*

**Nellie Mae Foundation**

**Rapid Response: Racism is A Virus Too**: <https://www.nmefoundation.org/grants>

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation created a rapid response fund to respond to the hate crimes and bias against Asian American communities resulting from COVID-19. The Foundation has allocated resources for the *Racism is a Virus Too* rapid response grant fund to support Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that provide services for Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Funds are available to Nonprofits, Community-Based Organizations, schools or districts in New England working in and with communities of color serving parents, youth, and/or educators on transforming barriers to racial equity in public education.

**Sewall Foundation** (<https://www.sewallfoundation.org/rapid-response-fund>)

The Sewall Foundation’s Rapid Response Fund (RRF) is a flexible, rolling application grant opportunity that supports emergency and/or time-sensitive needs of organizations and communities whose efforts support work in Maine to improve the wellbeing of people, animals and the environment, while fostering relationships that strive for social equity and community resilience. In 2020, the total amount of the Rapid Response Fund is $500,000. Grants will be made on a rolling basis until the all funds are spent.

**Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation** (<http://www.vhsfoundation.org/coronavirus-emergency-funding-update-march-19-2020/>)

The Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation is offering Coronavirus Emergency Funding to help bridge the gap between work and unemployment, especially for those lower earning folks who may not have adequate savings for basic needs. Funds are available to organizations serving residents of York and Cumberland Counties in Maine with priority for organizations providing services within York County.

**Avangrid** ([Avangrid press release)](https://www.avangrid.com/wps/portal/avangrid/home/!ut/p/z1/lVHLTsMwEPwVOPQYdp23j1ZJVaVKOfBo40tkEjs1ECdNTYC_xxSuLeoeVlrtzGh2FjhsgRsx6VZY3Rvx5uaSxxW5SzOySv0iXfkLZHn8wBaYE8wTeAIOvDZ2sDsoRTtWu76TM_zt9fs4SmOv5OT6YYbBjRSj0aY9_LCGWjdQRhQFRkp5flNTL1S08aivpJc8BwRVSCWtU9j8Z4O7NZ4oho7Pj5BTCnH0BzijUToPSRWQIluGc1xjxgiyJPJvi7UDzEPYTFp-wKPpx84ld3_hiUuE_KxHd6X7hn7Z7zlzkffGyk8L2wsyH7ouDb68V1VkQcjL62_KY8Vi/dz/d5/L2dBISEvZ0FBIS9nQSEh/)

The company has committed $1 million in corporate funds that will be distributed across its service territories, which include Maine to support emergency needs in communities at the state and local levels. Little information is on the company’s site. Contact Avangrid or Central Maine Power directly with inquiries.