



# ILLINOIS COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND

## **Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund Announces Final \$7.5 Million in Grants to 7 Nonprofit Organizations Focused on Primarily Serving Black / Latinx Communities** *Fund Announces Total of \$31.15 Million in Funds Distributed from the ICRF*

Springfield, IL (September 8, 2020) -- The Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund (ICRF) announced today it distributed its fifth and final round of funding, an additional \$7.5 million to 7 nonprofit organizations across the state. The Fund, which was established by the United Way of Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations in collaboration with the Office of the Governor, focused this round of funding on organizations that serve primarily, but not exclusively, Black and Latinx communities, and that are led by, or in meaningful partnership with an organization led by a Black or Latinx leader.

With this most recent round, the ICRF has distributed all remaining funds for a total of \$31.15 million granted to over 1,650 organizations in every part of Illinois supported directly by ICRF funds or regrant recipients from ICRF funded organizations. With the first three rounds of grants, ICRF grantees have served over 114,000 families, provided 27,000 nights in emergency shelters, and have funded over 11,000 health and mental health care visits to date. The impact continues as funds are currently being distributed by grantees from the final two rounds. The Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund, chaired by former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, worked swiftly to quickly deploy these funds to those most in need throughout the State during this crisis.

"Even in the earliest days of the COVID-19 pandemic, need was unfolding beyond a scale modern day government had ever seen – and the best response would be all hands-on deck, private and public efforts alike, to meet it," said Governor JB Pritzker. "The Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund answered the call when our state needed it most and before the federal government had begun to help. To all the Illinoisans who joined in this effort: Penny and the Response Fund team, large corporate donors, family foundations, small businesses who stepped up to help their neighbors and each other out, every individual who gave what they could spare to help out those in need: on behalf of a grateful state, thank you, thank you, thank you."

"During this terrible crisis, we are so grateful for the generosity of so many across our state who contributed to this important fund to serve those fellow Illinoisans who need help meeting their most basic needs," said Penny Pritzker, chairman of PSP Partners. "Too many families have been decimated by this terrible pandemic and our fund has used a data driven approach to prioritize and target those communities and populations who have borne the disproportionate and tragic share of impact. It has been a great honor to chair this needed and critical effort and work with such a dedicated team to support more than 1,650 organizations on the front lines of compassion in every corner of Illinois."

ICRF committed to allocating funds where the data indicated the COVID-19 burden was the greatest. As ICRF moved into its final round of funding, more information became available about the impacts of this pandemic. Black and Latinx communities were significantly and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The magnitude of this discrepancy grew, and racial equity emerged as a further focus of

ICRF's grantmaking. For this final round of funding, ICRF held an open application process that sought to reduce longstanding barriers of traditional grantmaking, required proposals be designed and implemented by organizations that reflect the experiences, assets, and leadership of the communities in which they aimed to serve, and funded organizations that were led by, or are in meaningful partnership with an organization led by a Black or Latinx individual.

ICRF received over 100 applications, totaling \$120 million in requests. Ultimately, ICRF gave grants to 7 organizations throughout the State, that provide basic needs for Illinoisans today and are expected to have a sustained, lasting impact beyond the life of the Fund.

The fifth-round grant recipients from the ICRF are:

Organizations:

- Community Health Partnership of Illinois
- Community Life Line
- DREAAM Opportunity Center
- Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project
- mRelief
- PCs for People
- Springfield Urban League, Inc.

For more information about prior rounds and to learn more about the ICRF, visit our website: <https://www.ilcovidresponsefund.org/>

Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations

The Alliance of Illinois Community Foundations strengthens and promotes community foundations in cities, counties and regions across Illinois. Community foundations steward donor funds to improve the quality of life in our local communities.

<https://allianceilcf.org>

United Way of Illinois

United Way of Illinois (UWI) is a statewide association of local United Way organizations representing communities across Illinois. We fight to create lasting community change by helping children and youth succeed in school, promoting financial stability and family independence and improving the health of all Illinois' residents. More information at <http://unitedwayillinois.org/>

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## Illinois Covid-19 Response Fund Round 5 Grantees:

**Community Health Partnership of Illinois** - Expand testing and primary care access at four of its sites for the most medically vulnerable individuals by purchasing a mobile medical clinic and increasing telehealth resources for migrant farm workers and rural communities, specifically serving Champaign, Kankakee, La Salle & Peoria. Enhance the health clinic in Mendota to increase capacity. <https://www.chpofil.org>

**Community Life Line** - Provide direct cash assistance for Greater East St. Louis, in collaboration with a group of over 70 local partners. Support: 1) addressing housing stability (eviction prevention), 2) meeting basic and emergent needs, 3) expanding an outreach and communications campaign, and 4) strengthening the Greater East St. Louis COAD coalition (Community Organizations Active in Disaster). <https://www.communitylifelineestlnp.org>

**DREAAAM Opportunity Center** - Implement a multi-tiered, evidence-based system of supportive services focused on employment, mental health, and holistic needs in Champaign county. Engage individuals and families across the three tiers of support, in addition to universal programming, to expand existing services and focus on employment, mental health, and holistic needs. <https://www.dreaam.org>

**Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP)** - Provide direct cash assistance for the migrant and Latinx community statewide, specifically focused on low income laborers and their households in the following industries: cannery, farms, greenhouse, landscaping, meat packing, restaurants, snow plowing. <https://www.flapillinois.org>

**mRelief** - Increase equitable access to SNAP, a comprehensive food security effort centering families who are eligible for but not receiving SNAP benefits. Core constituents are families who primarily use a mobile phone to access the internet and families without internet access, with this grant focused on serving Peoria. Support applicants to complete the pre-screening process, application and on-going reporting. <https://www.mrelief.org>

**PCs for People** - Launch a multi-pronged digital inclusion, workforce development and community equity initiative in the Greater East St. Louis area. Provide refurbished computers and connectivity devices for free or low cost. Build a Metro-East Wi-Fi network to connect local low-income multi-unit housing properties. <https://www.pcsforpeople.org>

**Springfield Urban League** - Match qualified childcare workers called In-home Educators with working families, primarily those needing childcare during non-traditional hours, through the In-home Early Education Initiative (IEEI). Offer traditional childcare services (feeding, changing/toileting, bathing, close supervision) enhanced with age-appropriate child development and learning activities that align with the Illinois Early Learning and Development Standards provided by in-home educators. <http://www.springfieldul.org>

Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund  
 Round 5 Grant Awards  
**Total Amount: \$7,500,000**

Organization	Amount
Community Health Partnership of Illinois	\$1,650,000
Community Life Line	\$1,000,000
DREAAAM Opportunity Center	\$400,000
Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project (FLAP)	\$600,000
mRelief	\$900,000
PCs for People	\$1,450,000
Springfield Urban League, Inc.	\$1,500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,500,000</b>

## Round Five ICRF Awards - Key Facts



**\$7,500,000** grant awards recommended, including our largest award to date of **\$1,650,000** to Community Health Partnership of Illinois



**7** unique grantees: All of which are led by, or in meaningful partnership with an organization led by a Black / Latinx individual



**1,650+** organizations served to date across **100%** of counties throughout the state, including all regranted organizations from Round 1 - Round 4



Funds to primarily focus on those those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and to meet the needs of the moment:

- Black individuals, families, and communities
- Latinx individuals, families, and communities



Grants will continue to serve ICRF's **6** basic need areas, while creating an impact beyond the life of the Fund:

- Emergency food and basic supplies
- Interim housing and shelter
- Primary health care services
- Utility and financial assistance
- Support for children and other vulnerable populations
- Nonprofit safety and operations assistance