

# Foundation COVID-19 Response Vital & Ongoing



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It's a challenging time for all and particularly so today for South Florida, now at the epicenter of the ongoing pandemic just as many local nonprofits are running out of funding to help. Thanks to your support, our COVID-19 Relief Fund committee continues to work with partners to monitor and nimbly respond to the changing situation and needs in our neighboring communities. While the vast majority of our funding so far has been directed to food programs and distributions and expanding capacity for local agencies providing nutrition, our collaboration with Florida Keys Outreach Coalition to vet and provide small grants to individuals continues to be a cornerstone of our response.

"This program has become a lifeline for many in our community in a time of great stress and fear," according to FKOC Executive Director Stephanie Kaple. "We cannot solve every problem but, to those most impacted by COVID-19 and all of its effects, these small amounts of money offer hope, and that means a great deal right now." Kaple has trained a team of volunteers to help meet the increased demand and all services are being provided safely by phone and online.

Since early April, the FKOC COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program has helped more than 1,800 individuals who live and/or work in Monroe County. The program offers up to \$250 towards basic needs such as

food, medical care, prescription costs, transportation to employment, childcare, telephone and internet bills. Our funding to almost 700 households has supported 635 children and 1,178 adults, including 77 senior citizens, as of last Friday. The average amount of assistance to households has gone up a bit since our last update to \$180.64. The most frequent services requested are now necessary medical care, transportation for returning to work, and food for families whose needs cannot be met by local food pantries. Through this funding FKOC has assisted 46 people who identified themselves as Ocean Reef employees.

The Foundation also made a small 2020 Community Grant to FKOC's Quick Assist Homelessness Prevention Program in the Upper Keys as part of our regular annual grants. Under that grant, 20 additional households were assisted with services to enable them to stay stably housed and employed. Those assisted include 15 children and 28 adults (one senior). This funding has now assisted an additional seven Ocean Reef employees.

Find sharable flyers about the FKOC COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program and others at [www.orfound.org](http://www.orfound.org), and information about additional resources and programs including food distributions sponsored by the Foundation on our Facebook page.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the relief effort and have it matched dollar for dollar, please donate at [www.orfound.org](http://www.orfound.org) or mail your check made payable to Ocean Reef Community Foundation, with COVID-19 Relief in the memo line, to 35 Ocean Reef Drive, Ste. 148, Key Largo, FL 33037. Those with an ORCF Donor Advised Fund who wish to donate from their funds, and anyone with questions about the relief effort, can email [foundation@oceanreef.com](mailto:foundation@oceanreef.com).