CFMC Live Local Give Local Emergency Fund Grants Program FAQ

1. What organizations may submit an application?

All 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations or other charitable organizations able to receive a tax-deductible contribution, such as schools, faith-based organizations, and other public entities are eligible. We are not able to fund individuals or businesses directly, labor unions, or other 501(c)4, 501(c)5, and 501(c)6 organizations.

2. I am an individual affected by the COVID-19 situation. Can I apply for assistance from this Fund?

The Community Foundation of Middlesex County understands the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic is causing and know that these challenges will continue to have a significant impact on individuals and families. We will work to move resources as quickly as possible to community-based organizations that are directly supporting local families and residents who are most affected. But unfortunately, we cannot offer direct funds to individuals at this time.

3. Is there a maximum amount our organization may request?

No, but we do ask that nonprofit organizations please recognize that the needs are great and funding resources may be limited. We ask that organizations consider their “ask” in light of the many needs within our community. Please understand that we will be fielding many requests from throughout our 15-town footprint and we want to provide support to as many organizations as possible.

In the future, if funding allows, requests for support for mid-to-long term recovery and rebuilding efforts after COVID-19 will be considered.

4. How are applications submitted?

CFMC uses an online application submission process. The link to the application is on the Live Local Give Local Emergency Fund Grants Program page at the bottom. Organizations considering submitting an application are strongly encouraged to read the Instructions PDF prior to completing the application.

5. Is there a geographic focus for this fund?

Yes, funding requests must directly impact any, some, or all of the fifteen (15) towns of Middlesex County.

6. My organization is interested in grant funding. How can we be considered?

We understand nonprofit organizations are facing increased demand for services, lost revenue and many other unprecedented challenges. We are working closely with community partners to identify and understand the needs and will provide grant dollars to address the most critical needs. In order to move resources quickly, the application process is “rolling,” and we are not designating a specific “close” date for submissions. Please complete the online application so that we are aware of your needs as the granting process progresses.

7. What is considered immediate and basic needs as the priority?

At this time, we are most interested in those services that aid our community in ensuring our residents have access to the essentials. These may include, but are not limited to, food banks and food pantries; meal delivery programs; youth and child care services for essential personnel; senior services; essential education programs; and mental health programs.
8. What will NOT be included in the first phase of funding?

We will continue to fund requests as long as funding is available. While we anticipate there are both acute needs now as well as planning for the longer-term impacts of the recovery, we are focusing on immediate, priority needs at this time. We are prioritizing community-based organizations that are serving communities and individuals who are immediately and disproportionately suffering from this crisis. At this time, we are not able to prioritize organizations who have lost revenue or are likely to lose future revenue due to canceled events or programs, or larger public institutions that are strained by increased demand for services. We recognize these challenges, and as the crisis and long-term impacts continue to unfold, we will continue to assess and evolve our funding strategies.

9. Are schools eligible?

Schools that hold a 501c3 designation and/or are tax exempt as districts of a municipal entity are eligible to apply.

10. Are there certain items CFMC won’t consider supporting:

- Grants directly to individuals.
- Political campaigns or lobbying activities.
- Projects that exclusively serve religious purposes, although religious organizations providing non-religious community services will be considered.
- Endowments.

11. Do I have to apply for an SBA loan to be eligible for this grant?

No.

12. When will you share who you fund?

We anticipate making a first round of grants in the coming weeks. We will publish the list of selected grantees in our News section.

13. What happens if my application is denied? Can I get feedback on my application if it’s denied?

Please consider re-applying at a future date. We are working on developing a process to provide feedback in the near future. We will not be able to provide feedback on declined applications for at least two weeks because of the anticipated resources required to review and award grants.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to our donors who have contributed to the Live Local Give Local Emergency Fund. Thanks to their generosity, 100% of the contributions to this Fund will support our nonprofits.