"I am so impressed by what the Newton COVID-19 Care Fund has accomplished, and I want to thank the more than 1,000 donors who stepped up to help families in need during the early months of the pandemic. Thanks to your tremendous generosity, those who need help are receiving it. Bravo to the good people of Newton." – Mayor Ruthanne Fuller

About the Newton COVID-19 Care Fund

Inspired by Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, the Newton COVID-19 Care Fund was established on March 20 by local citizens and businesses, the United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Family ACCESS of Newton and other community organizations. The purpose of the Fund is to provide short-term emergency relief to individuals and families financially burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Designed to be flexible and responsive, the Fund provides need-based grants up to $2,500 maximum per qualifying household for basic expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, medical expenses, health insurance, funeral expenses, childcare expenses). Eligible recipients include Newton residents, workers, first responders, and families with children in Newton schools or pre-schools, that meet a certain income threshold and have suffered financial setbacks due to the pandemic.

As of June 3, the Fund raised over $700,000 from more than 1,000 donors and has granted $492,000 of emergency assistance to 253 recipients through Family ACCESS of Newton, the non-profit organization that oversees review and disbursement of the emergency funds. With an additional 111 eligible recipients in the queue to receive funds, we are on track to disperse all resources by early July.

With this in mind, June 5 is the final date for the Fund to accept applications for assistance. The Fund website will remain active through June 30 to accept donations in order to meet the needs of the final round of eligible applicants. All of those involved with the Fund remain committed to closely monitoring the crisis and will be prepared to spring back into action should the need arise.

Since the Newton COVID-19 Care Fund launched on March 20, various cities and towns across the Greater Boston Area followed suit to form similar efforts providing emergency relief for families affected by the pandemic’s impacts.

Our Impact to Date

- 364 households submitted eligible applications to date.
- Average recipient gets $1,608, and 87 families received the $2,500 maximum.
- 61 applicants are primarily Spanish, Portuguese, or Chinese speakers.
- 59 applicants are employed by/own Newton businesses, living outside of Newton.

In the Media: New TV segment  Boston Globe article
Voices & Stories of the Recipients

From this Newton resident
There are no adequate words to express my gratitude and appreciation for your financial help. On March 13th, I lost my part-time job due to the corona virus. My rent is very expensive and my small social security check does not even cover it. I was feeling very anxious about both my rent and a current medical bill. The Newton Senior Center connected me with Family ACCESS. Karen was very helpful. She listened and cared and treated me with respect. She is very knowledgeable about the local resources. She processed my application and both the rent and medical bill were accepted. I felt as if a huge lump was removed from my chest and no longer felt anxious. I was then able to concentrate on working very hard to follow all corona suggestions and stay well. So far, I am healthy!! Thank you again for your kindness and generosity. It changed my attitude for the better and I am deeply grateful. Karen and Family ACCESS gave me hope and the courage to fight and help others.

From this Boston mother of two
We live in Boston and our children, ages 5 and 7, go to school in Newton. I’m not sure there are enough words to express my gratitude for the generous gift I received from the Newton community. It was a difficult time for us because my husband was out of a job for 3 months before the pandemic and after the pandemic my job was cut back from 40 hours to 12 hours a week. I want to send a big thank you to all those who were responsible for helping pay our rent and some of the bills. In this world we are living in now it is comforting to know that there are still good people who think and help others…thank you, thank you and thank you.

From this Newton resident
I just wanted to say a heartfelt THANK YOU! I am honored to receive a grant from Family ACCESS/United Way/Newton Cares. I have been emailing with Peyton for a few weeks and she has been a pleasure to work with. She was so helpful and so kind and patient! And walked me through the whole process. This is such an amazing and wonderful program. I cannot thank you enough - it is so incredibly helpful at a time like this - and this will be a huge help in calming anxiety about paying urgent invoices and bills at present time. For the first time in 18 years of being self employed, and running a small business - we have had to close most of our regular services. I am beyond grateful and will cherish this kindness for a very long time. Thanks SO much - I am so appreciative!

- E is retired and her primary income is Social Security. She lives in subsidized housing and provides childcare services for extra income, to make ends meet. When the pandemic started, her childcare families cancelled, and her college aged granddaughter came back to live with her. With both of them unemployed and living off social security, their financial situation is tight. The Fund paid for 2 months’ worth of rent, gas, electric, and internet bills. With her extra time, E is making masks to give to her family members, who live all over the metro Boston area. She misses seeing her grandchildren.

- S contacted the fund because she lost her job working for a local utility company. Her husband also had his work hours cut, reducing their family income severely. Her son has special needs and requires multiple therapies per week, so the family’s medical expenses are unusually high. During the pandemic, S is focused on supporting her son, who is not getting the same amount of therapy he typically receives from school and private therapists, but she worries about the bills piling up. The Fund covered two months’ worth of electric, oil, and therapy bills totaling $2,467.
Thank you to all the Newton COVID-19 Care Fund Supporters

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- Rebecca Pomroy Foundation
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- The Village Bank
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley

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