

# United Way of Lane County funds COVID-19 recovery initiatives

Over \$447,000 in grants this month will support initiatives led by and serving BIPOC, rural, and low-income communities to recover and rebuild from the pandemic

Although the impacts of COVID-19 are being felt by everyone in Lane County, communities that have been historically marginalized are experiencing its effects most acutely. United Way of Lane County, in partnership with Lane Community Health Council and others, has just announced \$447,960 in funding this month to address these disparities.

Funds are part of United Way of Lane County's Respond, Recover, Reimagine Grants, aimed at supporting local nonprofits' COVID-19 recovery efforts, as well initiatives to create more equitable outcomes for marginalized communities in Lane County.

This month, 30 local programs, most of them led by or serving Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), as well as rural and low-income communities, will receive grants of up to \$20,000.

"Be Your Best Cottage Grove is so excited to have been awarded this funding, which will allow our core group to continue coordinating our collective support programs and organizations in order to meet the needs of everyone in our community seeking support," said Samantha Duncan, Be Your Best Coordinator in Cottage Grove. "Our goal is to work with our local service providers, volunteers, educators, and other stakeholders along with those from our rural counterparts to create a model of centralized services and supports, including a referral network that will be easily accessible and sustainable through changing times."

In total, 76 program and initiatives applied for funding in this summer, with requests totaling \$1.3 million. Funds addressing more

immediate response and recovery efforts will help expand staffing and service provision of health care in rural communities (McKenzie Valley Wellness), offer support and training for Trans community members (TransPonder), and more.

The McKenzie Little Eagles Preschool is one of programs receiving funding this month.

"The much-needed funds will be used to support families in accessing quality Pre-K programming by providing scholarships to offset tuition cost," said Lacey Joy, Special Programs Director. "The preschool is the only program available within the rural 42-mile school district boundaries.

"Limiting barriers and providing access for all is a priority of the district."

Funds supporting more systems-level change include advocacy for ten-

ants' rights (Springfield Eugene Tenant Association), increased access to COVID-19 testing for Black community members (Drive-Through COVID Testing) and more.

"It is good to know during difficult times that United Way of Lane County is always there to help neighbors in need," said State Senator James I. Manning Jr., one of the co-founders of the Oregon Black Education Foundation.

Funds will help expand their partnership with Klapuya High School to serve students of color in education and career pathways.

The following programs serving the South Lane region will receive funding this month:

- Be Your Best (\$10,000)
- Catholic Community Services of Lane County (\$20,000)
- Rural Development Initiatives (\$5,000)
- South Lane Mental Health Services (\$10,000)
- Other funded programs include:
  - Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley (\$12,000)
  - Centro Latino Americano (\$10,000)
  - Community Alliance of Lane County (\$12,000)
  - Community Outreach

- through Radical Empowerment (CORE) (\$16,000)
- Daisy CHAIN (\$16,000)
- DevNW (\$16,000)
- Downtown Languages (\$20,000)
- Drive-through COVID Testing (\$16,000)
- Eugene/Springfield NAACP (\$16,000)
- Grupo Latino de Accion Directa (\$12,000)
- HIV Alliance (\$20,000)
- McKenzie Little Eagles Preschool (\$12,000)
- Oregon Black Education Foundation (\$16,000)
- Oregon Law Center-Lane County Legal Aid (\$20,000)
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County (\$20,000)
- TransPonder (\$16,000)
- Volunteers In Medicine Clinic (\$10,000)
- Youth Era (\$20,000)

The fund was launched in partnership with the newly-formed Lane Community Health Council, which has contributed a total of \$500,000 to United Way's COVID-19 response work since March.

The Oregon Community Credit Union Foundation contributed an additional \$25,000 to this fund, as well as a number of other generous individuals and businesses.

## 6-day weather forecast

<b>FRIDAY</b> 87°   51° Sunny	<b>SATURDAY</b> 84°   48° Sunny
<b>SUNDAY</b> 78°   51° Sunny	<b>MONDAY</b> 82°   53° Mostly Sunny
<b>TUESDAY</b> 87°   57° Sunny	<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 87°   53° Sunny

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