



JEFFERSON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

COVID Response & Recovery Fund

PHASE I IMPACT REPORT

March to October 2020, Jefferson Community Foundation received 1,100 donations and a total of \$700,871 was awarded to 34 organizations on the frontline of pandemic response.

The Stay Home, Stay Healthy order marked the beginning of a year of unprecedented challenge. By April, **unemployment** in Jefferson County had tripled to a rate of 19% threatening every sector of our economy and the safety and security of individuals and families—regardless of age, education, or income level.

- **Lost wages meant unpaid bills, including rent, utilities, and accumulation of debt.**
- **Individuals and families questioned how to access affordable, nutritious food.**
- **School closures and online learning** challenged students, teachers, and working families.
- **Isolation triggered mental and emotional health issues** in all ages.
- **Small businesses, arts and culture, trade organizations, and local farms—industries intrinsic to Jefferson County’s cultural heritage and identity—struggled to stay afloat.**

Throughout Phase I, Jefferson Community Foundation raised awareness about programs available to community members in need, by hanging posters and handing out flyers in high-traffic locations, providing resource pages on our website, and mailing a services list to every household in Jefferson County.

A COORDINATED RESPONSE

In March, Jefferson Community Foundation (JCF) immediately began to coordinate a local effort to raise critical funds to support emergency response in our community.

Individual donors, businesses and organizations stepped forward without hesitation, eager to help, and turned to JCF to strategically allocate their generous charitable gifts.

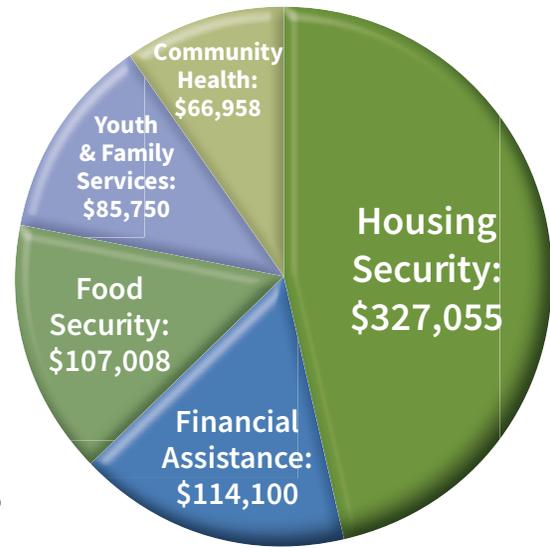
Phase I of the COVID Response & Recovery Fund was designed as an agile mechanism to direct funds quickly and efficiently to build and sustain a powerful landscape of response resources. JCF launched a weekly proposal and award process allowing funding to quickly reach local organizations, increasing their capacity to serve.

Between March and October 2020, JCF received 1,100 donations and a total of \$700,871 was awarded to 34 organizations on the frontline of pandemic response.

Funding supported the immediate needs of more than 11,300 households and in many cases increased the long-term capacity of key organizations and sectors to support changing needs. (See reverse.)

PHASE II BEGINS

All the impact and good works detailed in this report are **made possible through the generous charitable giving** of local individuals, businesses, and organizations. *JCF thanks you!*



Grantee Organizations: 34
Total Donations: \$713,659*
Total Amount Awarded: \$700,871**

*\$12,788 was invested in community outreach and public education.

**JCF charge no fees for donations to the fund.

FUND OVERSIGHT

To ensure **funding decisions are informed by deep local knowledge**, JCF assembled an esteemed Grants Committee to review and respond to proposals and direct funds to organizations for immediate use.

Comprised of community-minded, seasoned professionals, the JCF Grants Committee reviewed 140 applications from 61 organizations. Members include:

- **Kathleen Kler**, the former Jefferson County Commissioner District No. 3
- **Jean Baldwin**, a former Public Health Nurse, and the former Jefferson County Public Health Director
- **Meredith Wagner**, the former Executive Director of the Jefferson County Rural Library District
- **Rose Lincoln Hamilton**, the former President & CEO of the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, and the current Chair of the Jefferson Community Foundation Board of Directors

Donate to Recovery & Resilience Today!

A TRUE COMMUNITY EFFORT: The immediate response by Jefferson Community Foundation donors and community members was inspiring. Over 1,100 donations poured in, ranging in size from \$10 to \$100,000, including 15 donations from JCF Donor Advised Funds. Local businesses, church and civic groups made over 30 contributions.

Donate online: [JCFives.org](https://www.jcfives.org)

Donate by mail: PO Box 1394, Port Hadlock, WA 98339

“We feel deeply connected and knowledgeable about our community but in a situation like COVID-19, we cannot foresee the future. We simply don’t know what segments of the population will be hit hardest. We trust Jefferson Community Foundation to respond to the shifting terrain and make necessary funding decisions nimbly.” —Anonymous Donor



COMMUNITY IMPACTS

SECTOR IMPACTS

HOUSING SECURITY

- **Over 475 months** of rent paid for Jefferson County families through long-standing service organizations.
- **29 previously homeless people** vulnerable to the virus on the streets are now housed in 19 transitional housing units.
- **5 low-risk individuals** hired to keep the homeless shelter operating.

Habitat for Humanity and **COAST Shelter** maintain operations with paid interns and “low-risk” volunteers filling positions vacated by those too vulnerable to work on-site during the pandemic.

Community awareness campaigns maintain momentum and support for increased affordable workforce housing during the pandemic, so essential workers can continue to live locally despite housing market inflation.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- **Over 2,000 households** received financial assistance to help with utility bills and daily expenses.
- **530 families** received increased SNAP benefits to purchase over \$91,000 in groceries.
- **Over 70 homeless individuals** received supplies e.g., tents, sleeping bags, coats, and toiletries.
- **94 low-income families** received diapers, baby wipes, grocery vouchers, fuel cards, masks, and other essential consumables like soap and feminine hygiene products.

Multiple family-service organizations convened to coordinate a response to the ongoing needs of families and to increase awareness about resources available countywide.

Multiple financial assistance organizations convened to prevent individuals and families from accumulating insurmountable debt.



FOOD SECURITY

- **Over 4,700 nutritious meals** were delivered to more than 300 low-income students countywide.
- **More than 2,500 loaves of bread** were delivered weekly to low-income families in Chimacum.
- **Local food banks** increased their services by 25% to serve more than 2,700 households monthly.
- **3,000 individuals** received free meals through the **St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Just Soup** program.
- **2,000 lbs. of food** was distributed through the **Little Free Pantry** program.

Jefferson County Farmers Markets launched a new online platform, making it easier for local farmers to sell their goods and for patrons to make online purchases, access SNAP benefits, and arrange contactless pick-ups and delivery.

Jefferson County Food Bank Association invested in new refrigeration equipment to meet increased need for perishable food storage.

Local farmers struggling financially due to the pandemic, were employed to grow produce to help meet increased demand at local food banks, providing over 6,000 lbs. of produce.



YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

- **143 low-income students’ homes** were connected to reliable, high-speed Internet so they could participate in online learning.
- **30 foster families** received masks and sanitation supplies.
- **45 foster families** received at-home learning aids for their K-12 students.
- **44 youth** received scholarships to attend COVID-safe summer camps.

Connected Students Initiative was founded to ensure that students’ education can never again be interrupted due to a lack of Internet access.

Olympic Angels invested in computer technology to ensure local foster children have access to online learning when schools and childcare facilities close.

First Step Family Support Center established a free diaper bank at the Brinnon Community Center.



COMMUNITY HEALTH

- **5,000 face masks** were distributed for free before any were readily available at local retailers.
- **54 oncology patients** received counseling to help cope with isolation during treatment.
- **65 children** received online counseling and at-home play therapy kits to help adapt to isolation and online learning.
- **49 youth** participated in mental health counseling sessions and/or online workshops teaching self-compassion and promoting healthy coping techniques.
- **42 individuals** concerned with traveling on public transportation during the pandemic received a free bicycle from **The ReCyclery**.
- **Quimper Grange**, a community gathering space, received facility upgrades including an air ventilation system and sanitation amenities.

Multiple mental health organizations are coordinating efforts to increase awareness of the mental and emotional impacts of the pandemic and social isolation.

New technology and training positioned local health organizations to better serve clients online. Upgraded computer systems ensure that current and future online services meet HIPPA standards and provide high-quality, confidential care.

To learn more about
Jefferson Community Foundation:
[JCFgives.org](https://www.jcfcgives.org)
 (360) 385-1729