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April 27, 2020

New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations Launches First Grants from All Together NM Fund

COVID-19 relief fund to help buy, distribute much-needed food

New Mexico – A COVID-19 relief fund started last month by the New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations, in partnership with the Governor's office, is awarding grants totaling \$550,000 to address the surging demand for food assistance from unemployed New Mexicans.

The Coalition, which includes Albuquerque Community Foundation, Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, Santa Fe Community Foundation and Taos Community Foundation established the All Together NM Fund in March to help New Mexico respond to and eventually recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through a collective impact approach, members of the New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations will focus relief efforts in their surrounding geographic regions, while working together to ensure dollars from the All Together NM Fund are reaching our state's most vulnerable and at-risk populations – especially in regions where local emergency funding is not readily available.

"The New Mexico Coalition of Community Foundations is well positioned to partner with the Governor's office on this effort," shared Taos Community Foundation Director, Lisa O'Brien. "Each of us brings great knowledge of our local communities, allowing for well-placed grants to land quickly, where they are most needed. This makes our state-wide charitable response even stronger."

Initial grants from the All Together NM Fund were announced last week – \$400,000 to support five food banks that serve communities, including tribal communities, across the state. "It is important for dollars to flow into the southwestern portion of the state so that rural and frontier communities receive needed support whether it be for food insecurity, Covid-19 support and the importance of economic recovery," said Terra Winter, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico.

Future grants will focus on providing other basic and essential human needs, including shelter services, medical care/supplies and childcare for our state's first responders. In partnership with the Governor's office, the Coalition will continue to monitor the emerging needs of our state and meet those needs head on. "It is critical for the NM Coalition of Community Foundations to be a partner with the State on this groundbreaking fund because we see firsthand the challenges

faced everyday by our nonprofit partners,” said Randy Royster, President & CEO of the Albuquerque Community Foundation. “By working together to identify community needs, we can have a greater impact, not just for the nonprofit sector, but for our state’s entire recovery effort.”

Here is a breakdown of the first-round food grants:

- The Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico (based in Clovis): \$13,200
 - Serves Curry, DeBaca, Guadalupe, Quay, and Roosevelt Counties
- ECHO Food Bank (based in Farmington): \$24,400
 - Serves San Juan county
- The Community Pantry (based in Gallup): \$28,000
 - Serves Cibola and McKinley Counties
- The Food Depot (based in Santa Fe): \$45,200
 - Serves Colfax, Harding, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, and Union Counties
- Roadrunner Food Bank (based in Albuquerque and Las Cruces): \$289,200
 - Serves Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Hidalgo, Lea, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Sandoval, Sierra, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties

The All Together NM Fund will also award \$150,000 through a competitive grant process to support food distribution agencies across the state.

“The importance of working across our state with fellow community foundation partners through the All Together NM Fund cannot be understated as a huge leap in addressing the needs of our many communities in this crisis,” said William (Bill) Smith, President & CEO of the Santa Fe Community Foundation. “We know that food insecurity is affecting each and every community in our state and this first round of grants from the Fund will help address this situation.”

Donations to the fund are tax-deductible and can be made through the website, www.AllTogetherNM.org, by texting “together” to (505-333-4714, or by mail to the Santa Fe Community Foundation, PO Box 1827, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Please note “All Together NM Fund” on the check itself).

Gifts of stock, property and electronic fund transfers may be made by calling the Santa Fe Community Foundation at 505-988-9715 ext. 7006.



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