



Discussion on Funder Collaboration for COVID-19

March 30, 2020 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Resources

Upcoming Webinars

- April 6th | [Discussion on Funder Collaboration for COVID-19](#) (Focus on Homelessness)
- April 10th | [Aging Intersections: A Funder Network | Conversation about Older Adults and COVID-19](#)

BARHII

- [BARHII Legislative Policy Platform](#)
- [Health Equity and Economic Opportunity Resources for COVID-19 Response](#)

Philanthropy CA

- [COVID-19 Response Resource Page](#)
 - [Public Policy](#) – New Tab!

Introduction & Purpose of Call

Today's call focused on health, and was hosted by NCG's Bay Area Health Funders Group. Participants heard about what's happening in the public sector, the strategies that statewide and local health funders have developed to meet immediate needs, while still pushing for long term goals of increasing health equity and resiliency in our health care system.

Melissa Jones, Executive Director, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII)

- BARHII is a coalition of 11 Bay Area health departments that are committed to advancing health equity.
 - Public health departments were among the first to focus on providing information on social distancing and shelter in place mandates in their counties.
- The last few years BARHII has focused deeply on those affected by the vast inequalities in the Bay Area community created by lack of affordable housing and access to jobs that pay a living wage.
- BARHII has created a legislative policy platform that provides a template for local health departments that are seeking to integrate health-promoting policies into their jurisdiction's legislative platform.



- Major concerns for this time include financial assistance for families, housing stability, economic security for small businesses and gig workers, access to quality early childhood care, and issues around law enforcement.
- Prior to Governor Newsom's state wide eviction moratorium last week, BARHII was working with local jurisdictions to draft language, encouraging the Governor to set this moratorium in place.
- BARHII created language around the importance of using parks and open spaces for physical and mental benefits, especially with those with less stable home lives and the importance of maintaining social distancing.
- It's important to consider the major issues of health equity during this time and how we as a society will re-build to ensure everyone in the community is getting what they need.

Bonnie Midura, Senior Program Officer, The California Endowment

- This pandemic is unlike anything we've seen before, trying to balance immediate and long term needs.
- Initially deploying two phases, phase one was just completed 1 ½ weeks ago and included \$4 ½ million to the following:
 - Regional consortia's of health clinics across the state, aiding with emergency staff, communication support, personal safety equipment, etc.
 - Public health department consortia's, including BARHII
 - Food insecurity is a major health issue, provided a grant to CA Food Bank Association.
 - Community foundations relief funds
 - Population specific grants, i.e. UndocuFund, National Domestic Workers Alliance
- Aware that funding to cities vs. rural communities is vastly un-proportional and plan to focus more on rural areas that don't have as many investments.
- Currently working on phase two and plan to focus on those who won't be eligible for the CARES Act and providing accountability to the implementation of the act, to ensure the most vulnerable populations are receiving funds.
- Also plan to support narrative and framing.

Catherine Collen, Program and Grants Officer, Metta Fund

- Metta Fund is a private foundation dedicated to the health and wellness to San Francisco's aging population. Have a strong focus on addressing social isolation and loneliness among older adults, which has dramatic health implications, especially for those with lower income.
- Those who were socially isolated prior to COVID-19, are especially at risk now.
- Metta Fund made its first round of grants to those working on the ground, including providing technology and technical support remotely for centers that older adults usually go to for resources.



- Food insecurity is a reality for many elders and is also something Metta is investing in.
- Less than 1% of funding goes to supporting older adults in our country. This is a great opportunity to learn more about older adults and their needs and how to reframe the narrative around aging.

Carolyn Wang Kong, Chief Program Direction, Chief Program Director, Blue Shield of CA Foundation

- Blue Shield's mission is to make CA the healthiest state with the lowest amount of domestic violence in the country.
- Can't go into great detail, as bringing a docket to the board this week, but are thinking about both short term and long term response.
- Short term:
 - Public Health Response funding:
 - Testing, communication on social distancing, bolstering communication strategy for health departments,
 - Ethnic Media Services- ensure accurate, real time information is being shared in hard to reach communities.
 - Adapting existing grants, so that nonprofits can continue to provide services, i.e. offering telehealth services.
 - Community Response funding:
 - Supporting community based organizations, especially those providing food services and domestic violence shelters.
 - Ensure the most vulnerable get their most basic needs met
 - Plan to support existing funds through community foundations
 - Population groups, i.e. tribal community up north
 - Economic Response:
 - Support organizations offering services to low wage workers
 - Provide support for undocumented workers
- Long term:
 - How to deal with long term mass trauma of frontline workers.
 - How to use narrative as a tool especially in immigrant communities
 - How to change policy, in economic response in particular, providing paid sick leave.

Q & A Summary

- Undocumented people will not qualify for the federal stimulus, how do we raise funds for this?
 - The State is working on this, other organizations to check-in with are United Way, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Legal Aid at Work.
 - Perhaps foundations and government who want to support undocumented people can all use UndocuFund as the vehicle to get resources out.



- Much public health information is being put out in English. Blue Shield and other local funders are working on tools to disseminate more nuanced/tailored public health messaging.

NCG/BAHFG Updates

- Many people have been asking about what their fellow funders are investing in. NCG will be sending out a survey after this call to gather information on funder responses to COVID-19 and will provide high level results from the survey on the next call on 4/6.
- The BAHFG will be hosting a program centered on mental health on May 7th.
 - Please let Sarah, Carolyn, or Wendy know if you are interested in participating in additional health focused calls in April.
- The 4/6 Discussion on Funder Collaboration call will focus on homelessness.