



MEALS ON WHEELS COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND?

The Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund was created to support the Meals on Wheels network at a time of intense need. Through this Fund, Meals on Wheels America will solicit, receive and distribute funds on behalf of its nationwide network, allowing local programs to stay focused on what is most crucial – meeting the critical needs of seniors in their communities.

Because this situation is developing quickly and projected to have a dramatic impact on our programs for months, if not years, to come, the Fund will be structured to retain the flexibility required to respond to immediate, emerging and evolving needs over time.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS FUND?

Both Meals on Wheels America and the network it serves are required to pivot their operations to meet the critical demands of this unprecedented crisis. This Fund will help scale our collective work in response to the pressing situation and ensure our programs are able to serve vulnerable seniors during this pandemic, in its aftermath and for years to come.

WHO CAN DONATE?

The Meals on Wheels America COVID-19 Response Fund is open to donations from individuals, corporations, foundations and other organizations. Individuals can make a gift online at www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/COVID-19. Corporate, institutional and foundation donations can be made by contacting kristine@mealsonwheelsamerica.org.

ARE DONATIONS TAX-DEDUCTIBLE?

Donations made directly on the Meals on Wheels America COVID-19 Response Fund webpage www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/COVID-19 are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law in the United States. Meals on Wheels America can accept wire transfer or check donations from anywhere. Contact caitlin@mealsonwheelsamerica.org if you have any questions on how to donate via check or wire transfer.

HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?

In the near-term, the Fund will focus on one-time emergency grants to Meals on Wheels programs that will help them address the needs of the vulnerable senior population they serve. The Fund will also focus on pursuing national-level activities that will support the ability of programs to continue operations as the outbreak spreads. These near-term national activities will include:

- Funding for the immediate replenishment and expansion of shelf-stable and frozen meals
- Subsidies to help cover the additional costs of transportation and personnel created by the necessary closures of meal sites (previously offered at community-based locations, such as senior centers) and the reduction of volunteers due to an aging volunteer force that is itself at-risk
- Subsidies that will support telephone assurance and other tech-based programs to enable vital check-ins on the well-being of isolated seniors
- Advocacy efforts to ensure that the nation's federal response to COVID-19 includes strong and flexible funding for senior nutrition programs
- Facilitating in-kind and other product distribution efforts to help the hardest-hit communities
- Supporting an online network that connects senior nutrition programs nationwide for sharing of best practices and lessons learned as the situation evolves
- Curating and disseminating timely, current and critical information to programs on how to protect themselves, prevent infection and provide care for those in need as the pandemic progresses
- Enhancing the ability of individuals to find their local Meals on Wheels programs through our website
- Public awareness building to ensure additional emergency nutrition and social support for homebound seniors
- Other needs as they pertain to the specific and unique challenges faced in each community

HOW MUCH ARE YOU HOPING TO RAISE?

In this fast-moving environment, it is difficult at this time to determine exactly how much will be needed. We do know that, as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, the funding required to meet the unprecedented levels of need will continue to increase.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF EACH DONATION WILL GO TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES?

100% of donations made to the Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund will support our senior nutrition program network, with no less than 80% being

distributed directly to local programs based on need, and the remainder supporting the national efforts during this crisis and all year long. While the form of support may change over time, initial payments will be made to Meals on Wheels programs that can apply for a one-time emergency grant (up to \$25,000) through a simple application process beginning March 23, 2020.

WHAT KIND OF OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY WILL MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA IMPLEMENT FOR THE FUNDS THAT IT DISBURSES TO LOCAL PROGRAMS?

The Meals on Wheels COVID-19 Response Fund will be administered by Meals on Wheels America and managed by the Association's Chief Strategy and Impact Officer. A Review Committee will design and implement a simple application and review process with the goal of getting funding out to local programs as quickly as possible. We will track and report specific expenditures of funds, and the impacts of the grant awards, and will provide funders with periodic impact reports (every three months, at minimum).