

March 2020



St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund helps create the OC Community Resilience Fund to address the impacts of COVID-19

One month ago, we were all navigating our lives as usual. Schools were open, we shook hands, went to work, and congregated at churches, community events, and social gatherings with friends and co-workers. Some people may have never even heard the word “pandemic.” In the month since, COVID-19 has changed our day-to-day lives in a way none of us have ever experienced before. Our community needs to adapt, to come together – while also distancing – and to draw on our psycho-social and economic reserves for resilience and wellness.

To do this, and to manage the massive economic, social, and psychological impacts of COVID-19, a philanthropic response is needed. In Orange County, Providence St. Joseph Health, a 51-hospital, \$25 Billion health system, through the St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund (SJCPF), is uniquely positioned to play a key role in that response.

SJCPF is the strategic arm that stretches beyond the traditional role of healthcare to explore innovative new ways to partner with others of goodwill while investing in transformational strategies in the communities we serve. SJCPF staff, seeing the impact of and response to COVID-19 in Seattle, recognized what other communities might soon be facing. Furthermore, in February of 2020, the SJCPF had released a broad study of the impacts of the 2017 Northern California wildfires, so they were well versed in the impacts of disasters on communities, local governments, funders, and organizations. The SJCPF brought that knowledge to meetings they convened with key local leaders and partners such as the Orange County Community Foundation and Charitable Ventures to discuss a potential response to COVID-2019 in Orange County.

St. Joseph

The SJCPF follows the tradition of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, who in response to the 1918 flu pandemic, were called to support the health, social, and spiritual needs of the community. 100 years later, COVID-19 poses a massive health threat, both in immediate terms and its longer-term impact on Social Determinants of Health. The SJCPF is concerned and acting on both.

Community

COVID-19's impact is being felt throughout our community, particularly among the poor and vulnerable – those who have to continue to work to feed themselves and their families, those who are undocumented and fear inability to fund needed healthcare, isolated older adults living in poverty and without social networks, and those without reserves. In the words of Jason Lacsamana, Senior Program Officer of the SJCPF, “If they were already struggling in boom times, they’ll be devastated now.”

Partnership

The SJCPF’s approach is based on its grounding in partnership with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and other funders.

Fund

For the past 34 years, the St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund has provided resources to support the health and well-being of the poor and vulnerable.

OC COMMUNITY Resilience Fund

Powered by

Charitable Ventures, OC Grantmakers, Orange County Community Foundation and St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund

The Resilience Fund is a collaborative response by the Orange County philanthropic community, including the Orange County Community Foundation, Orange County Grantmakers (the County's regional affinity group), and Charitable Ventures (an anchor nonprofit organization focused on collective impact). Driven by the idea that, in Lacsamana's words, "If we come together, we can be more powerful," it seeks to strengthen and support CBOs who serve vulnerable communities most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Resilience Fund will provide three types of grants to community providers:

- *Funding to support community clinic operations for the purpose of providing preventative and medical services to those affected by COVID-19*
- *Funding to support emergency grants to individuals affected by COVID-19 due to quarantine, business closures and/or lay-offs, school or other community program closures and/or lay-offs*
- *Funding to support community-based organization operations for nonprofits serving vulnerable populations and who can present a clear case of direct impact due to the medical or economic effects of the pandemic*

While positioned for rapid deployment of resources, this structure will also allow for investments to address longer term impacts that will be felt as the economic fallout from the pandemic is felt in the community and our nonprofit partners. Throughout, decisions and strategies will utilize an equity and justice lens to ensure that resources will prioritize the most vulnerable and marginalized, while also informing opportunities to address deeper, upstream systems impact.

A Call to Action

The SJCPF invites partnership and coordination in this time where communities all over the globe are facing similar challenges. The SJCPF believes that the only way we will get through this is together. Together, we can support the non-profit sector and our vulnerable communities. Together, we can support health care workers, first responders, and service workers as they continue working in new and uncomfortable circumstances for community well-being. Together, we will recover from this crisis and keep our community strong and resilient.

To learn more about the OC Resilience Fund,
visit <https://charitableventuresoc.org/resiliencefund/>.

For more information about St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund,
visit <http://stjosephcpf.org/>.
