



## Help United, Greater New Bedford COVID-19 Response Fund FAQ's

### **Where can I find information about United Way of Greater New Bedford's COVID-19 Response Fund?**

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, United Way of Greater New Bedford established the Help United, Greater New Bedford COVID-19 Response Fund for individuals affected by the crisis. Mobilizing United Way's broad network, the Help United Fund will provide a flexible source of cash assistance to help individuals weather the COVID-19 crisis. It has been promoted on our social media networks and on the City of New Bedford's homepage. For more information on the fund, visit our website at [unitedwayofgnb.org](http://unitedwayofgnb.org).

### **Will United Way of Greater New Bedford take overhead on these donations?**

No, 100 percent of donations will go directly to help individuals in need.

### **Who will benefit from this fund?**

Priority consideration will be given to out of work service industry workers (eg. Hospitality, cosmetology, trade) and retired or out of work seniors over 65. Recipients must live in Greater New Bedford (Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, or Wareham).

### **How can someone request financial support from the fund?**

Individuals looking for information about how to access emergency assistance funds should visit our website. Please note that fund requests for support of non-profit or agency operations, administrative overhead, and/or programs will not be considered.

### **How and when will this fund be distributed?**

United Way of Greater New Bedford will coordinate the distribution of funds via a network of local, community-based nonprofit partners throughout the crisis. UWGNB will also distribute approved funding to pay third parties such as landlords, utility companies, and mortgage bills. United Way will distribute funds on a rolling basis and continue until the fund is depleted.

### **How is United Way of Greater New Bedford coordinating with other funds?**

United Way of Greater New Bedford continues to update and engage with philanthropic leaders, corporate funders, and companies across the region. UWGNB is coordinating closely with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts and United Way of Greater Fall River as well as other community organizations. United Ways will be focusing on residents in the community while the Community Foundation will focus on a non-profit's capacity.

### **How is United Way of Greater New Bedford's fund different from other COVID response funds?**

United Way of Greater New Bedford's funds will provide direct emergency assistance for individuals and cannot be used to cover non-profit operations or programs.

This fund is supported and endorsed by the City of New Bedford and Mayor Jon Mitchell.

### **What is United Way of Greater New Bedford's track record and history in this type of fund distribution?**

United Way of Greater New Bedford is not new to emergency response. It already supports vulnerable children and families through our Family Resource & Development Center and through other community partners. Additionally, UWGNB manages the Holiday Wishes Program which assists families in crisis during the holiday season. Funds raised for families are used similarly to how they will be managed for the Help United Fund – approved funding is paid directly to third parties.

### What can funds be used for?

Help United funds will be used to assist individuals impacted by lost wages, closure of schools, daycares and non-essential businesses. United Way funds may be distributed in partnership with local nonprofits - with specific guidelines in place to ensure distributions are targeted for specific purposes. Funds can be used for the following purposes:

- Rent/mortgage owed
- Basic utilities and supplies, such as Internet for families with school-age children
- Oil delivery or utility expenses
- Child care expenses
- Funeral costs
- Gift cards for the purchase of basic supplies when necessary
- Other needs as mutually agreed upon

UWGNB will require funds to be distributed directly to vendors rather than to individuals, so that they are used for the purposes for which they are intended.

### How is this fund different from unemployment?

It is true that some individuals who are out of work may have access to unemployment insurance. Emergency financial assistance differs from this because it is not paid directly as cash assistance to individuals but rather will be used to pay vendors on their behalf, such housing expenses, emergency supplies, childcare expenses, medical needs or other basic needs.

### How can someone make a donation?

- **Credit Card Online:** <https://unitedwayofgnb.org/donate/coronavirus-covid-19-response-donation/>
- **Mail a Check:** United Way of Greater New Bedford, 128 Union Street, Suite 105 New Bedford, MA 02740. Please include "Covid-19" or "Help United Fund" in the memo of your check.
- **Text to give:** Text HELPUNITED to 313131
- **Donor Advised Fund:** If you would like to utilize your Donor Advised Fund, please include Help United Greater New Bedford COVID-19 Response Fund in your designation details. Our tax ID number is 04-2104264
- **IRA Rollover:** Please include "Help United Greater New Bedford COVID-19 Response Fund" in your distribution request. Our tax ID number is 04-2104264 For more information, please contact Jen Bates at 508-994-9625 ext. 224 or [jbates@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:jbates@unitedwayofgnb.org)
- **Gifts of Securities:** You can call or write to your broker and ask them to initiate a "broker to broker" transfer. Instruct your broker to donate the stock directly to United Way of Greater New Bedford. United Way will provide you with the name of our brokerage firm, the brokerage firm's DTC number, the account name and number, and the telephone number and name of our broker contact at the firm. Your broker can then transfer the securities directly to the United Way's account. It is important that the securities be transferred directly to United Way's account prior to being sold in order to avoid capital gains taxation. For more information on how to complete this transaction, please have your stock certificate information available and contact Jen Bates at 508-994-9625 ext. 224 or [jbates@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:jbates@unitedwayofgnb.org)

If you have additional questions about the Help United Fund, contact 508-994-9625 ext. 219.