

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund

uwbv.org/covid19

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Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund Phase I Award Announcements and Phase II Application Dates

BRYAN, TX (Mar. 31) – The Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund will begin announcing grant recipients for Phase I of funding on Friday, Apr. 3. Those who applied for Phase I of funding but were not initially selected for funding may receive requests for additional information and consideration.

Funding applications for Phase II of funding through this program will be posted at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, Apr. 6 and will close on Thursday, Apr. 9 at 12 noon. Application phases will continue until all funds have been dispersed. Applications for Phase II of the Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund will be posted online at uwbv.org.

This grant funding is designed to help existing nonprofit organizations and small businesses, therefore individuals are not eligible to receive monies from this fund. Those who have been laid-off or furloughed due to COVID-19 are encouraged to ask their employer to apply for a grant. Individuals can also contact 2-1-1 Texas, by dialing 2-1-1, to receive referrals to nonprofit organizations receiving a grant from the Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund.

Community nonprofits have partnered with local governments and businesses to launch a relief fund for Brazos Valley residents and businesses that face economic uncertainty as the region continues to follow CDC, state and city guidelines designed to contain the spread of COVID-19. The Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief Fund has already raised over \$300,000 through local businesses and philanthropic donors.

The goal is to provide funds for measures such as food, rent and utility relief for residents along with small business relief as the community follows social distancing and isolation measures to curb the spread of the illness within the community.

Chris Field wanted to combine community resources for a common goal. Founder of the Mercy Project and the BCS Marathon, Field put the Community Foundation of the Brazos Valley together with United Way of the Brazos Valley. Soon, separate city efforts that were underway in Bryan and College Station joined together the COVID-19 community relief partnership.

Small businesses will be able apply for payroll assistance programs with these funds to help keep workers employed. Grant funding will also be available for community nonprofits that provide services for residents

Anyone can donate to the Brazos Valley COVID-19 Community Relief fund by texting BVCOVID19 to 41444 or by donating online at uwbv.org/covid19.

Thank you to all the partners who have made the Brazos Valley Community Relief Fund possible, including the Adam Family Foundation, American Momentum Bank, Donna and Donald Adam, Janet Briaud and Natalie Pine, Stylecraft Builders, the Community Foundation of the Brazos Valley – Fries Financial Services Fund, 25 News Brazos Valley, Tim Bryan and Travis Bryan, Frost Bank, Dexter & Company of Central Texas, First Financial Bank, the City of Bryan, the City of College Station, the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce, the Community Foundation of the Brazos Valley, the United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet and the United Way of the Brazos Valley.

For more information, visit uwbv.org/covid19.

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