

COVID-19 Challenges and Responses

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Long Local Tradition of Public-Private Partnership

Washtenaw Coordinated Funders



Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation



ST. JOSEPH MERCY
ANN ARBOR
SAINT JOSEPH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM



United Way
of Washtenaw County

coordinatedfunders.org



**United Way
of Washtenaw County**

❖ COVID-19 Community Relief Fund one million dollar goal

Whose work benefits people with low incomes, communities of color, and historically and/or systematically marginalized people, services are offered in 48197/98 and rural Washtenaw County

Whose primary program participants are high-risk for contracting COVID-19 (e.g. older adults and those with chronic health conditions)

Who have experienced a decrease in critical volunteer capacity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and an increase in staffing demands as a result of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic

❖ Within 2 weeks distributed 679K, Total of one million granted by end of April

❖ Organized thousands of community wide volunteers through VolunteerWashtenaw.org

❖ 2-1-1 call system has handled thousands of calls: priority calls are food and housing. Data gathered during calls highlights emerging/critical needs



Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation

- ❖ Over \$1M granted in response to crisis (including support for United Way's Relief Fund)
- ❖ Launched \$500k Nonprofit Loan Fund (\$100k in loans so far)
- ❖ Initial priorities have been older adults, young children, and disparately impacted neighborhoods
- ❖ Supported the County's Small Business Resiliency Fund and the Arts Alliance's Creative Washtenaw Aid 2020 Fund
- ❖ Blending data, institutional feedback, and individual feedback to inform evolving priorities

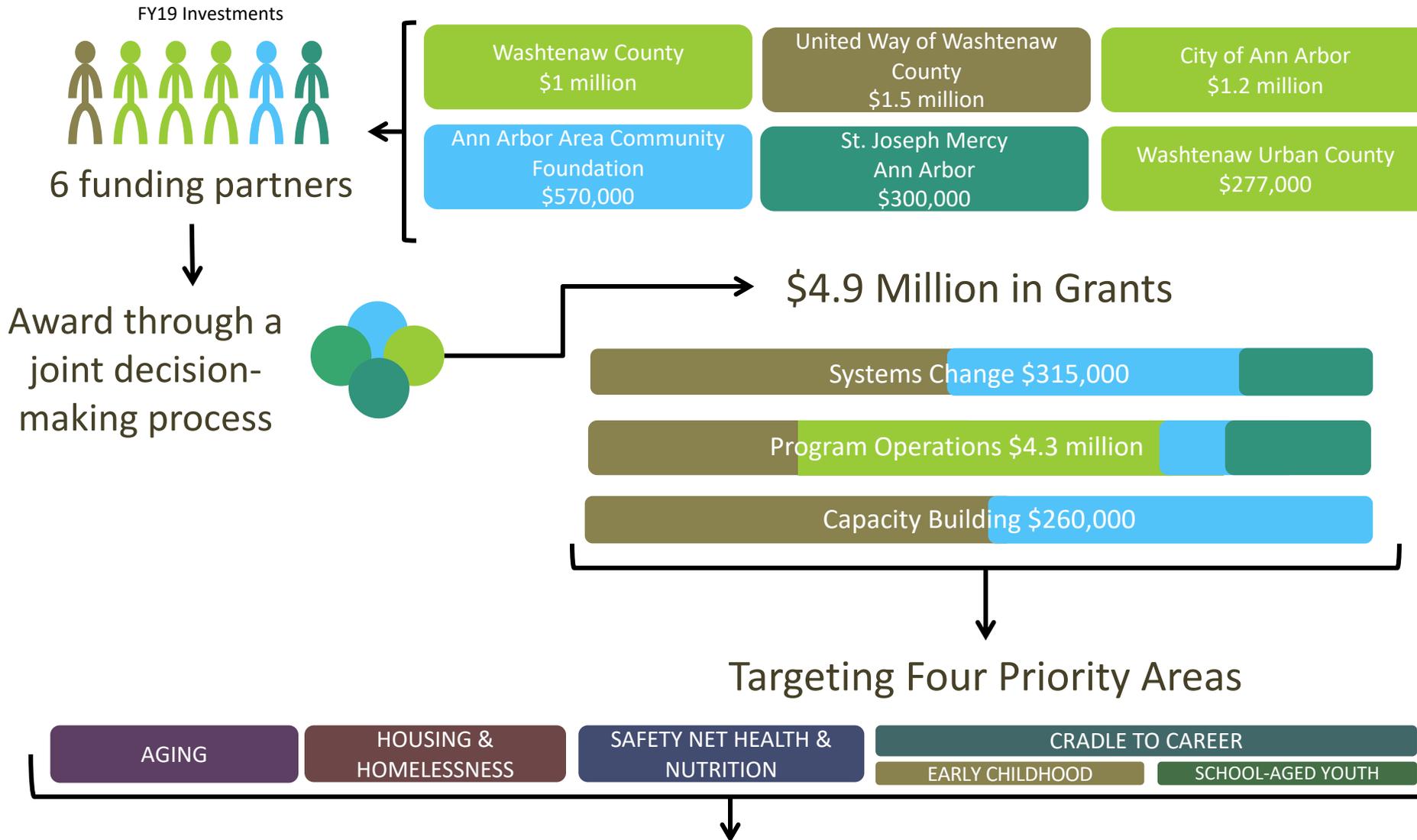


OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Working with Shelter Association to extend warming shelter and expand locations to allow homeless to shelter in place – 5 current sites
 - ❖ Additional sites being evaluated
 - ❖ Ultimate focus on permanent housing
- ❖ Administering Small Business Resiliency/Relief fund in partnership with Ann Arbor SPARK, SBDC, WCC entrepreneurship center and WC Racial Equity Office
 - ❖ More than \$1.3 million in funding for Washtenaw businesses
 - ❖ \$577,500 committed
 - ❖ Additional reviews underway with final grants to be awarded by April 30
- ❖ Managing Barrier Busters network of 100 non-profits
 - ❖ Direct support for residents with eviction prevention, utility payments, transportation
 - ❖ Expansion of Unmet Needs Fund in response to COVID including food, childcare, etc.

A Coordinated Funding Approach

to meet the needs of our community's most vulnerable



Supporting Over 40 Local Human Service Organizations



- ❖ Converted many current program grants into general operating support to lift agency restrictions
- ❖ COFU partners were in direct and constant contact as pandemic evolved maximizing networks and support systems
- ❖ Considering a similar action for the upcoming grant year
- ❖ Advanced some multiyear funds for nonprofits

Emerging Trends in Food Insecurity

- ❖ Food Supply Chain was interrupted, 40% donations come from restaurants and groceries
- ❖ Dramatic four fold increase on demand
- ❖ Reduction of volunteers in warehouse, National Guard assisting
- ❖ Staffing costs soaring
- ❖ Expanded EBT benefits should relieve pressure on emergency food system

Emerging Trends in Older Adult Vulnerability

- ❖ Access to healthy food is the #1 reported concern by older adults and social service agencies; depression also a growing concern
- ❖ Challenges in staying healthy (whether COVID-related or otherwise) during physical isolation
- ❖ Social isolation exacerbated by inadequate broadband access
- ❖ Not reaching out with their needs even when services and solutions exist
- ❖ Caregiving (formal and informal) has been upended and disrupted
- ❖ Disruptions will extend well beyond the pandemic period

Emerging Trends in Housing Insecurity

- ❖ State eviction moratorium extended until May 15
- ❖ Federally backed mortgages – eviction moratorium into August

Nation-wide challenges:

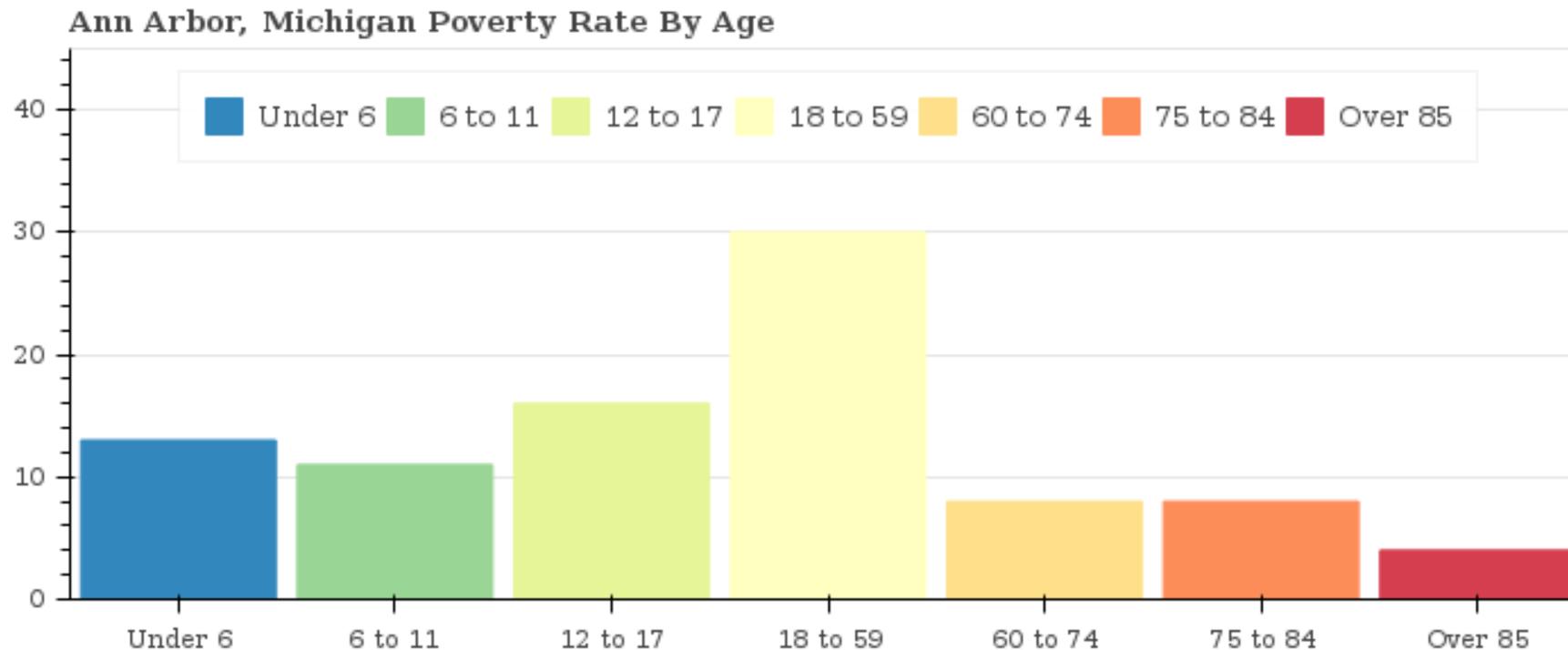
- ❖ Back rent and back mortgages could pile up do to job layoffs/loss
- ❖ Landlords could be impacted by lack of cash flow
- ❖ Immigrant community disproportionately impacted

The Disparate Impacts of the Crisis

- ❖ **Racial disparities** – African American 12% of Washtenaw County population but 48% of COVID-19 cases, Asian Americans have seen increase in racial attacks, xenophobia
- ❖ **Geographic disparities** – Rural communities suffering. Manchester for example has no pharmacy, no grocery store and more than half do not have Broadband for students
- ❖ **Socioeconomic disparities** – ALICE data 37% were already struggling and pandemic has exacerbated the stress and financial difficulties of maintaining household

The Disparate Impacts of the Crisis

- ❖ The poverty rate in Ann Arbor is 22.1%. <https://www.welfareinfo.org/poverty-rate/michigan/ann-arbor>



Suggestions for City

- ❖ **Play to existing strengths (COFU partnership) and collaborate**
- ❖ **Leverage existing investments** through Coordinated Funding, Barrier Busters, and Shelter Association
- ❖ **Maintain capacity** for the ongoing challenges of the crisis
- ❖ Use **data** to make decisions, rely on **staff and experts** for recommendations, keep entire city in mind when making hard choices – **equity matters**

Economic Development

- ❖ Nonprofits as employers (10.2% of national workforce)
- ❖ Small Business Resiliency Fund
- ❖ Technical assistance as businesses shift focus in short/mid term