



United Way of
Benton & Franklin Counties

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID-19 Community Response fund grants reach \$230,000

More than 20,000 local people have received services

KENNEWICK, Wash—The total amount of COVID-19 community relief grants awarded to local nonprofit agencies hit \$230,000 today, one day after the 5-month anniversary of the local Community Response Fund being launched.

Nearly 30 local agencies have received funding to address challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to food, and to mental and behavioral health services. United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties created the fund to help provide immediate support to agencies struggling to meet the increased need for services while also facing fundraising challenges due to the shutdowns.

Recent grants totaling \$40,000 were made possible by a donation from Battelle. “This is a difficult time for all of us but some in our communities are facing special challenges,” said Steven Ashby, PNNL director and Battelle senior vice president. “Many have been hard-hit financially and are struggling to afford basics such as food and healthcare, while others are combatting fear, anxiety and stress. Battelle and its staff at PNNL have been an integral part of the Tri-Cities community for over 55 years so when there are needs such as there are now, we feel it personally, and we desire to help where it is needed most.”

All donations to the fund are eligible to be matched by the All In Washington statewide relief fund. Gifts, from individuals, are double matched; a \$50 gift turns into \$150 for our community. Donors can give at <https://give.uwbfco.org/givenow> until September 10.

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About [United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties](#)

United Way of Benton & Franklin Counties improves lives and strengthens communities. We build collaborations with individuals, businesses, and nonprofits to address challenges that no one agency can solve alone to provide the building blocks of opportunity—education, income and health—that every person needs to thrive. Together, we’re solving our region’s biggest problems and creating lasting change.