

UNITED IS THE WAY WE PERSIST



OUR NEIGHBOR FUND: RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS

At United Way of King County, we're building an equitable future so everyone can thrive. It's why we're committed to more than just meeting our neighbors' immediate food, housing and educational needs. We're also working side by side with communities to dismantle the systems that created these inequities in the first place. For more than 100 years, United Way has been there for our neighbors, providing stability in times of people's need because we know that life happens.

We also know a vibrant and dynamic United Way is key to a healthy community and that in addition to our core work, we must prepare to rapidly mobilize resources, ensuring we can support our neighbors when unforeseen local challenges arise.

»» READY FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Our Neighbor Fund is meeting families' immediate needs by bringing food to the table, keeping people in their homes, and creating pathways to educational opportunities. It's also preparing us to step up quickly with **Rapid Response Grants** when unexpected crises hit.

These grants provide the philanthropic community with a vehicle to rapidly and strategically deploy resources during emergent crises. Think of it as an emergency fund for our shared humanity: a savings account meant to be dipped into when funding is needed the most.

WHAT DO THE RAPID RESPONSE GRANTS SUPPORT?

Of-the-moment issues require in-the-moment support. In March 2020, when the pandemic gripped our communities, it was clear that the most vulnerable among us would face the greatest impact. Hourly front-line workers lost employment, food banks closed, children lost access to free school meals, and families without internet or technology were effectively isolated from receiving support.

Due to our deep relationships in communities across King County, United Way was and is uniquely positioned to identify and help address emergent needs of our neighbors and redeploy our resources, both staff and funds to help.

Home visitors, who pre-pandemic would bring toys and books and help parents become their child's first and best teachers, now brought formula, diapers, and laptops. With food banks closed, we partnered with delivery drivers to bring groceries directly to people's homes. And as Federal Assistance, now gone or greatly reduced, flowed into communities, United Way had the infrastructure to receive and distribute hundreds of millions of dollars in rental assistance, keeping more than 12,000 families in their homes.

Ready to Respond



Recent examples include mobilizing emergency funding for advocacy efforts to stop disproportionate monitoring and shuttering of [Black childcare programs](#), and extending a \$15,000 grant for weekend food packs when the Backpack Brigade saw a steep increase of families needing assistance.

» WHY NOW?

We work alongside communities that have historically been denied opportunity, where the impact of poverty hits the hardest. These neighbors are most vulnerable to changes in the political landscape, and know first-hand that they stand to suffer under impending changes to social services policy.

United Way stands with our neighbors. We see and hear them. No matter what happens, we stay fiercely committed to them and the communities we serve. **That's why we're redoubling our efforts to be prepared to act and asking people to invest in Rapid Response Grants.**

A donation to Our Neighbor Fund designated to Rapid Response Grants will help grow our pool of flexible dollars to address the unexpected challenges that are certain to emerge. Together we can be prepared and know that United is the Way to be there for our neighbors when it matters most.



“Seeing a higher cost associated with our bag items, and a higher request from our partner schools, had us facing some hard decisions, as funding wasn't keeping up with the need. This generous grant has allowed us to stay the course, not reduce the bag items, or say no to requests of need. We appreciate this gift so much, and thank you!”

– Nichelle Hilton, Executive Director and Founder of [Backpack Brigade](#)



GIVE NOW, JOIN THE MOVEMENT. UNITED IS THE WAY.

