

# MEDIA RELEASE



Two leaders of philanthropy come together to provide financial support for Yellowstone County.

**Billings, MT, March 30, 2020:**

The Billings Community Foundation and United Way of Yellowstone County are collaborating to raise and distribute funds for the COVID-19 Community Response in Yellowstone County.

**The COVID-19 Community Response Fund** will provide flexible resources to 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations in the following counties: Bighorn County, Carbon County, Custer County, Fergus County, Musselshell County, Rosebud County, Stillwater County, Treasure County, and Yellowstone County. To qualify, nonprofits must be working with citizens who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and the economic consequences of this pandemic. The Fund is designed to complement the work of public health officials and expand local nonprofit capacity to address the many aspects of the pandemic as efficiently as possible. The first priority and focus is on providing funds to nonprofit organizations providing disaster relief efforts to individuals negatively affected by COVID-19.

## FUND GUIDELINES

Seventy-five percent of the COVID-19 Community Response Fund will be available via a quick easy grant process to 501(c)3 organizations to address basic needs of vulnerable populations.

Twenty-five percent of the COVID-19 Community Response Fund will go directly to the Yellowstone County Continuum of Care to meet shelter and homelessness diversion needs such as rent assistance. This existing coordinated effort is best suited to address individual emergency housing needs, and duplicative processes do not need to be setup.

The Billings Community Foundation and United Way of Yellowstone County encourage donations *directly to nonprofits*. For those who desire to support our community's most vulnerable during this time, but do not know how, *OR* those who wish to support the shelter and diversion capacity of Continuum of Care partners, the COVID-19 Response Fund serves as an easy and trustworthy platform.

For more information contact: **Lisa McDaniel**, [lmcdaniel@uwyyellowstone.org](mailto:lmcdaniel@uwyyellowstone.org), 406-697-2874 or visit [www.uwyyellowstone.org/COVID19](http://www.uwyyellowstone.org/COVID19)

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**About United Way of Yellowstone County** – United Way of Yellowstone County mobilizes the caring power of Yellowstone County to improve lives in measurable and lasting ways throughout the county. They provide leadership to effectively mobilize people through financial and strategic resources to improve people's lives by identifying and addressing priority needs with solutions that achieve sustained community change.

**About Billings Community Foundation** – The Billings Community Foundation is an innovative community foundation governed by local citizens promoting philanthropy and charitable giving. They have been helping individual donors and charitable organizations meet the needs of the Greater Yellowstone Valley Region of Montana since 2007.