



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Donate4Sacramento providing immediate relief to families, homeless, immigrants, minority-owned businesses and social services in crisis. Over \$1 Million released so far to those most severely impacted by health and financial burdens associated with COVID-19

April 27, 2020, Sacramento, Calif. – Donate4Sacramento releases today a fifth round of funding in the amount of \$134,000, enabling a total of \$1,044,787 to reach individuals in crisis in the fund's five-week existence.

United Way California Capital Region, one of the fund's five intermediary partners, has provided fund relief directly to 448 of Sacramento's most vulnerable families in the amount of \$500 each using Donate4Sacramento dollars. These funds help cover rent, food and another basic needs for families experiencing increased financial hardships due to unpaid leave, loss of wages or care for a sick loved one.

"I am grateful to United Way and everyone who made it happen for us," said Irina C., a \$500 fund recipient. "We have two children and I'm pregnant. My husband lost his job due to COVID-19 and it is a challenge for us even to get food for the kids and myself. The money got here just in time and really decreased our level of anxiety and stress."

Donate4Sacramento is providing rapid and real impact for hundreds of minority-owned businesses, immigrants, social service organizations, homeless individuals and families in need across Sacramento in these additional ways:

- **Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce** and the Sacramento Inclusive Economic Development Coalition have given \$1,000 grants to 49 minority-owned microbusinesses located along one of Sacramento County's seven underserved business corridors. The Chamber is preparing a second round of \$1,000 allocations to 67 more minority-owned small businesses, totaling 116 micro grants.
- **Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services** was one of the first organizations to receive funds. \$169,134 from Donate4Sacramento funds built up the food bank's food reserves and capacity to distribute food supplies to families and individuals experiencing immediate consequences of lost wages, unstable finances or health, and other impacts of COVID-19.
- **The Sacramento Region Community Foundation** directed dollars to organizations providing vital services in the Sacramento region such as emergency assistance, food security, healthcare, childcare, and those facing severe operational challenges or non-recoverable expenses like Volunteers of America-Northern CA, Focus on Family Foundation, Neighborhood Wellness Foundation, Sacramento Native American Health Center, Assistance League of Sacramento, and ReIMAGINE Mack Road Foundation.
- **The Center at Sierra Health Foundation** has provided \$30,000 to Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SacACT) to disburse \$500 grants to undocumented and migrant families. \$40,000 went this week to the Center for Workers' Rights for their worker hotline. \$20,000 has gone to Voice of the Youth

for their meal preparation and delivery program, and \$15,000 to Hmong Youth and Parents United to support the area's Southeast Asian communities. Another \$15,000 went to First Steps Community to support some of the City's most vulnerable, unhoused individuals with chronic medical conditions.

- **Sacramento Steps Forward** has allocated up to \$5,000 each to 16 separate organizations for meals, sanitation, survival gear and hygiene supplies. Sacramento Steps Forward support has also enabled Loaves and Fishes to prepare 200 meals a day Monday through Friday for delivery to homeless encampments. More than 3,000 meals have been delivered since April 3rd.

The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, United Way California Capital Region, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, and Sacramento Steps Forward serve as intermediary funding partners, each administering a rapid release of funds for supplies and support throughout Sacramento County. These organizations have established infrastructure to deploy funds quickly to trusted community organizations working directly with impacted communities.

The Sacramento COVID-19 Response Fund has raised \$1,202,397 to date and has released \$1,044,787 of it so far to the intermediary partners in waves as funds grew: \$262,678 on March 30, \$357,000 on April 6, \$148,000 on April 13, \$143,000 on April 20 and disbursed another \$134,000 this week.

Donors can choose how their contribution is allocated. Funds are then administered by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and distributed to the intermediary partners. Donate4Sacramento has received contributions from more than 1,050 individual donors, with donations ranging from \$5 to thousands. Corporate donors committing pledges in the last week include U.S. Bank (\$25,000), Verizon (\$20,000) and Sacramento Association of Realtors (\$10,000).

"Donate4Sacramento funding is helping our community service partners continue to serve Sacramento's unhoused individuals and families. This direct support is crucial as the COVID-19 pandemic amplifies the health and financial concerns of those most vulnerable in our community," said Lisa Bates, chief executive officer of Sacramento Steps Forward.

Those interested in making a donation can go to donate4sacramento.org. The website displays total contributions and disbursements and a complete list of partner organizations. **Hashtag #Donate4Sacramento**

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Donate4Sacramento is operated by The Center at Sierra Health Foundation and is a cooperative effort of city, business and community organizations. The fund's founding partners are the offices of Senator Richard Pan, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Congressman Ami Bera and Sacramento City, Sacramento County, Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Sacramento Area Congregations Together, Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Black Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Central Labor Council AFL-CIO, Sacramento Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Rainbow Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Region Community Foundation, Sacramento Steps Forward, United Way California Capital Region and 3Fold Communications.

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