

# Philanthropy and COVID-19

in the first half of 2020



**Candid.**

**CDP** Center for Disaster Philanthropy  
The when, where and how of informed disaster giving

## Contributors

### Candid

Grace Sato  
*Director of Research*

Supriya Kumar  
*Global Partnerships Research Manager*

Suzanne Coffman  
*Editorial Director*

Betty Saronson  
*Senior Visual Designer*

### Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Regine Webster  
*Vice President*

Tanya Gulliver-Garcia  
*Assistant Director of Major Initiatives*

Kristina Moore  
*Director of Marketing and Communications*

Ruja Entcheva  
*Digital Marketing Manager*

© 2020 Candid and the Center for  
Disaster Philanthropy

This work is licensed under a  
Creative Commons Attribution-  
NoDerivatives 4.0 International License,  
[creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0).

[doi.org/10/gg72df](https://doi.org/10/gg72df)

## About Candid

Every year, millions of nonprofits spend trillions of dollars around the world. Candid finds out where that money comes from, where it goes, and why it matters. Through research, collaboration, and training, Candid connects people who want to change the world to the resources they need to do it. Candid's data tools on nonprofits, foundations, and grants are the most comprehensive in the world. In February 2019, Foundation Center and GuideStar joined forces to become Candid, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, visit [candid.org](https://candid.org) or tweet us [@CandidDotOrg](https://twitter.com/CandidDotOrg).

## About the Center for Disaster Philanthropy

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy leverages the power of philanthropy to mobilize a full range of resources that strengthen the ability of communities to withstand disasters and recover equitably when they occur. It manages domestic and international disaster funds on behalf of corporations, foundations and individuals through targeted, holistic and localized grantmaking. For more information, visit [disasterphilanthropy.org](https://disasterphilanthropy.org) or tweet us [@funds4disaster](https://twitter.com/funds4disaster).

Cover, left to right:

Good360 COVID-19 distribution loading dock. Photo courtesy of Good360

'Thank you' sign on the side of a road thanking essential workers. Source: Nicholas Bartos

Leslie Craighead draws blood from a patient at Bradley Free Clinic. Photo courtesy of National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

Julie Braune donated food from the local farmers' market to the San Antonio Food Bank's emergency COVID-19 distribution. Photo courtesy of San Antonio Food Bank

# Foreword

By Patricia McIlreavy, President and CEO,  
Center for Disaster Philanthropy



Patricia McIlreavy

Few debate the central role that governments and the United Nations hold in the coordination of preparedness and response activities within any major crisis. Yet faith groups, humanitarian organizations, nonprofits, and other nongovernmental entities provide critical frontline support to communities in their relief and recovery. We saw this during the Ebola outbreak and we are witnessing it now as the world continues to grapple with the novel coronavirus pandemic. The story of COVID-19 would be incomplete without the critical contribution of philanthropy. Within this report, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and Candid attempt to recognize the immense role that philanthropy plays in disasters, specifically, the COVID-19 pandemic.

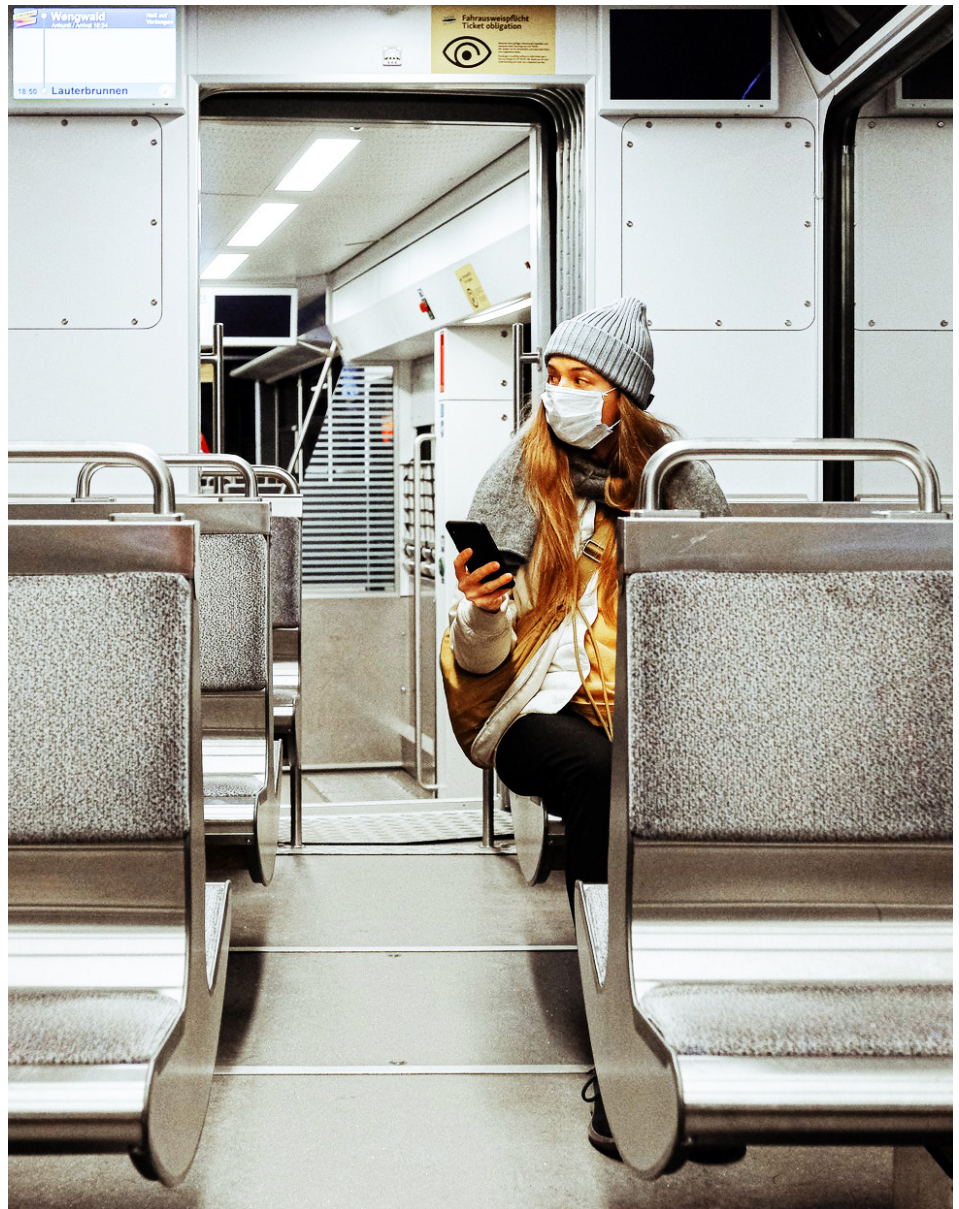
As the pandemic continues to ravage the globe, with millions of confirmed cases and hundreds of thousands of lives lost, philanthropy has provided a consistency of hope. Quick to recognize the needs within the broader response as well as of the communities themselves, philanthropic donors were generous. Not only did they give with exponential generosity but they also demonstrated a willingness to challenge their own restrictions on accessibility to their funds.

Unfortunately, the exact scope and scale of the human, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19 and the path to recovery remain elusive while the pandemic rages. What is known is that more funding and support is needed not only in response to the health challenges presented by COVID-19 but beyond, as recovery will take more than a vaccine.

Additionally, this diverse and longer-term funding needs to go to the most affected areas around the world. It is well known that access to life-giving and life-saving services are lacking in the lowest-income communities. In the United States, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities are disproportionately suffering and dying from COVID-19. Yet, as this report shows, BIPOC-led or even BIPOC-serving organizations continue to be underfunded. This trend must be reversed.



Woman wearing a mask on a train in Switzerland. Source: Anna Shvets



---

Funding and support is needed not only in response to the health challenges presented by COVID-19 but beyond, as recovery will take more than a vaccine.

We also know that other disasters—in the U.S. and across the globe—have not stopped. Disasters due to natural hazards or manmade crises will continue to stretch the resilience and capacities of communities already vulnerable to shocks. It is within this uncertainty that the predictability and generosity of philanthropic giving become even more important.

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy and Candid will continue to track the COVID-19 crisis, its impacts, and disaster giving. This report presents the first step on that journey.

# Introduction

On the last day of 2019, China advised the World Health Organization (WHO) that some people in the city of Wuhan in Hubei province were infected with an unknown strain of viral pneumonia. On January 7, 2020, Chinese officials announced that they had identified a new virus belonging to the coronavirus family. Since then, the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) has spread across the globe, infecting millions of people and killing hundreds of thousands.

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has created a global health and economic crisis that is testing regions around the world. In response, foundations, corporations, and individuals have been distributing funds to nonprofits to help communities cope with these unprecedented challenges. Candid has been closely tracking the global private philanthropic response to COVID-19 through news stories and other publicly available resources as well as from funders who have reported disbursements directly to Candid.

**Volunteers at Food Bank of the Southern Tier in Upstate New York packing emergency food boxes and bagging produce for drop and go delivery at Mobile Food Pantry sites and for distribution through regional school districts. Photo courtesy of Food Bank of the Southern Tier**





A nurse at Waaberi Health Center uses one of the in-house handwashing stations. Photo courtesy of Action Against Hunger



In this report, we look at the philanthropic dollars that were distributed for COVID-19 in the first half of 2020. Although not a complete picture of the global philanthropic response, due to the ever-changing response to the pandemic, the report offers some insight into funding flows seen thus far. Some key findings:

---

In the first half of 2020, we identified more than **\$11.9 billion** awarded for COVID-19 globally.

- In the first half of the year, we identified more than \$11.9 billion awarded for COVID-19 globally
- Corporations accounted for nearly two-thirds of funding
- Community foundations awarded more grants than any other grantmaker type (49 percent of total awards)
- Gifts by high-net-worth individuals accounted for at least \$1.6 billion
- A combined \$452.9 million was donated to COVID-19 response through the donor-advised funds of Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, and Vanguard Charitable.
- Proportionately little institutional funding was explicitly designated for specific populations and vulnerable communities

Candid and the Center for Disaster Philanthropy plan to release a follow-up research brief in February 2021.

# Commitments to new philanthropic practices

---

More than  
**775** foundations agreed to loosen grantmaking restrictions to enable their nonprofit grantees to focus on responding to the crisis.

A number of funders responded to the pandemic by altering the way they do business. Many leading foundations loosened funding restrictions, and some increased their payouts.

**More than 775 foundations committed to flexible funding in response to COVID-19.** In mid-March, a group of three dozen foundations collectively agreed to loosen grantmaking restrictions to enable their nonprofit grantees to focus on responding to the crisis. To date, more than 775 U.S.-based and international foundations have made the same commitment, signing the Council on Foundations' [COVID-19 pledge](#) to:

- Loosen or eliminate the restrictions on current grants
- Make new grants as unrestricted as possible
- Reduce requests of nonprofit partners, including postponing reporting requirements and site visits
- Contribute to community-based emergency funds and other efforts to address the health and economic impact on those most affected
- Communicate proactively and regularly about foundation decision making and response
- Listen to partners, especially communities least heard, and lift up their voices and experiences to inform public discourse and act on their feedback
- Support grantee partners advocating for public policy changes to fight the pandemic and deliver an equitable and just emergency response for all
- Share learnings from these emergency practices in order to consider adjusting philanthropic practices in the future

Advocates for nonprofit reform have long called for these changes to philanthropic practice and for this trust-based approach to be the norm rather than the exception. (For analysis of what the data currently demonstrates about these practices, please see pp. 16-18.) We look forward to learning if these practices take hold and become more commonplace in the years ahead, after the crisis has passed.

A group of primary school children from Kongoussi, a town in the Centre North Region of Burkina Faso, gather around a small radio as they listen to a lesson on French spelling. Photo by Adama Kouraogo, courtesy of Norwegian Refugee Council Burkina



**Some foundations committed to increasing payouts.** The coronavirus pandemic accelerated the conversation about minimum distribution requirements, the federal requirement that foundations distribute 5 percent of their investment assets annually for charitable purposes. On April 2, nine philanthropy-serving organizations issued a [joint statement](#) calling on foundations to significantly increase their giving during this crisis. In May, nearly 300 philanthropists, foundation leaders, and nonprofit executives signed a letter urging Congress to increase the minimum required distribution for private foundations to 10 percent. The letter also advocated requiring a 10 percent payout by donor-advised funds. (Currently, there is no payout requirement for donor-advised funds.)

---

Five foundations pledged to increase their their combined giving by more than **\$1.7 billion** over the next three years.

Five foundations pledged to increase their combined giving by more than \$1.7 billion over the next three years. The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Ford Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation are [increasing their payouts](#) to “help stabilize and sustain a nonprofit sector facing devastating economic effects due to the global pandemic and the epidemic of social injustice.” The Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and Doris Duke Charitable Foundation plan to finance their new spending by issuing bonds: Ford Foundation will sell \$1 billion in taxable social bonds.

Other funders also committed to increasing payouts, some even more than the suggested 10 percent. For example, the Wallace Global Fund will spend 20 percent of its \$100 million endowment in 2020. The Skoll Foundation, with a \$100 million gift from its founder, is expecting to quadruple its payout. An Exponent Philanthropy [member survey](#) in April found that 50 percent will increase their payouts this year because of the pandemic.



# Philanthropic funding for COVID-19

COVID-19 philanthropy far exceeds funding for other recent disasters.

Candid identified more than **\$11.9 billion** awarded globally for COVID-19 philanthropy. This figure, which includes pledges, commitments, and awards in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020, far exceeds funding for other recent disasters that we have tracked in real time.

## Philanthropic funding for COVID-19 compared with recent disasters

COVID-19	\$11,914,055,871
Hurricane Harvey	\$342,771,699
Australian bushfires	\$152,377,848
Hurricane Irma	\$127,309,374
Hurricane Maria	\$68,105,408
Hurricane Dorian	\$47,741,000

Based on data, in U.S. dollars, collected for roughly six months following each disaster.

COVID-19 philanthropy also dwarfs funding for the last major epidemic, the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, when about \$363 million was announced over a period of six months.

## Who provided funding?

### Corporations accounted for nearly two-thirds of COVID-19 funding.

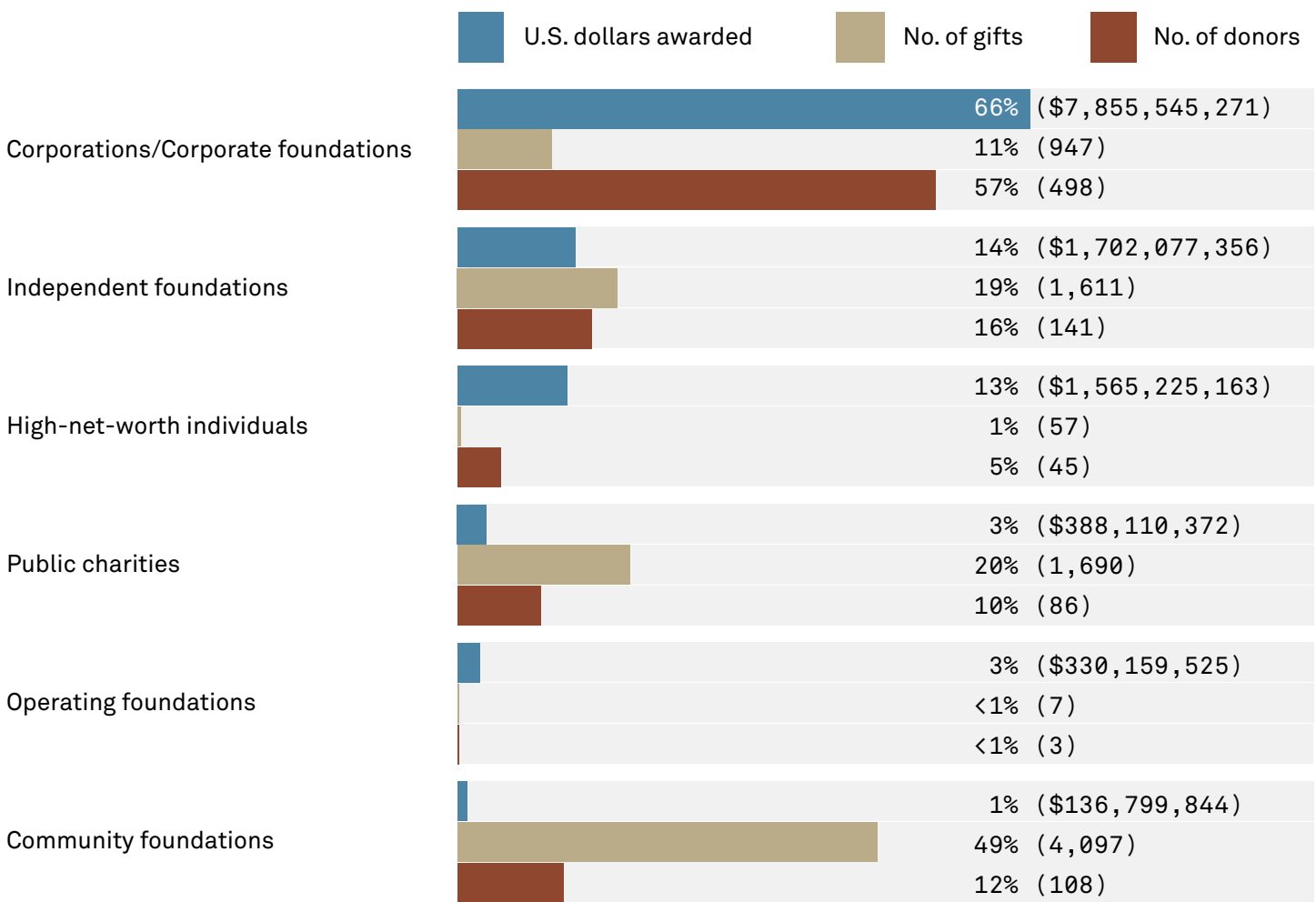
This figure includes funding through corporate foundations and corporate giving programs. Corporate foundations accounted for only 14 percent (\$1.1 billion) of all corporate funding for COVID-19; the remainder was attributed to corporations themselves and their direct giving programs.

The largest single corporate gift in the data set was **\$340 million** from Google.org for Google Ads credits to small and medium-sized businesses in response to the coronavirus.

Corporate giving also includes both cash and in-kind gifts. The largest single corporate gift in the data set was \$340 million from Google.org for Google Ads credits to small and medium-sized businesses in response to the coronavirus. Colgate-Palmolive Company committed \$20 million in health and hygiene products to community-based organizations for distribution in local communities to vulnerable populations and frontline workers. Some \$1.8 billion in funding included an in-kind contribution component.

It can be difficult to separate a corporation’s cash award from its in-kind gift—for example, Mastercard Incorporated announced a \$250 million commitment in financial and in-kind support over five years to bolster the security of small businesses affected by the spread of the coronavirus. Support includes financial, technology, product, and insight assets.

### Funding by donor type



Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid’s database as of July 7, 2020. Includes contributions made by donors to other donors included in the analysis and, therefore, contains some double counting of dollars.

Community foundations were responsible for **49%** of awards.

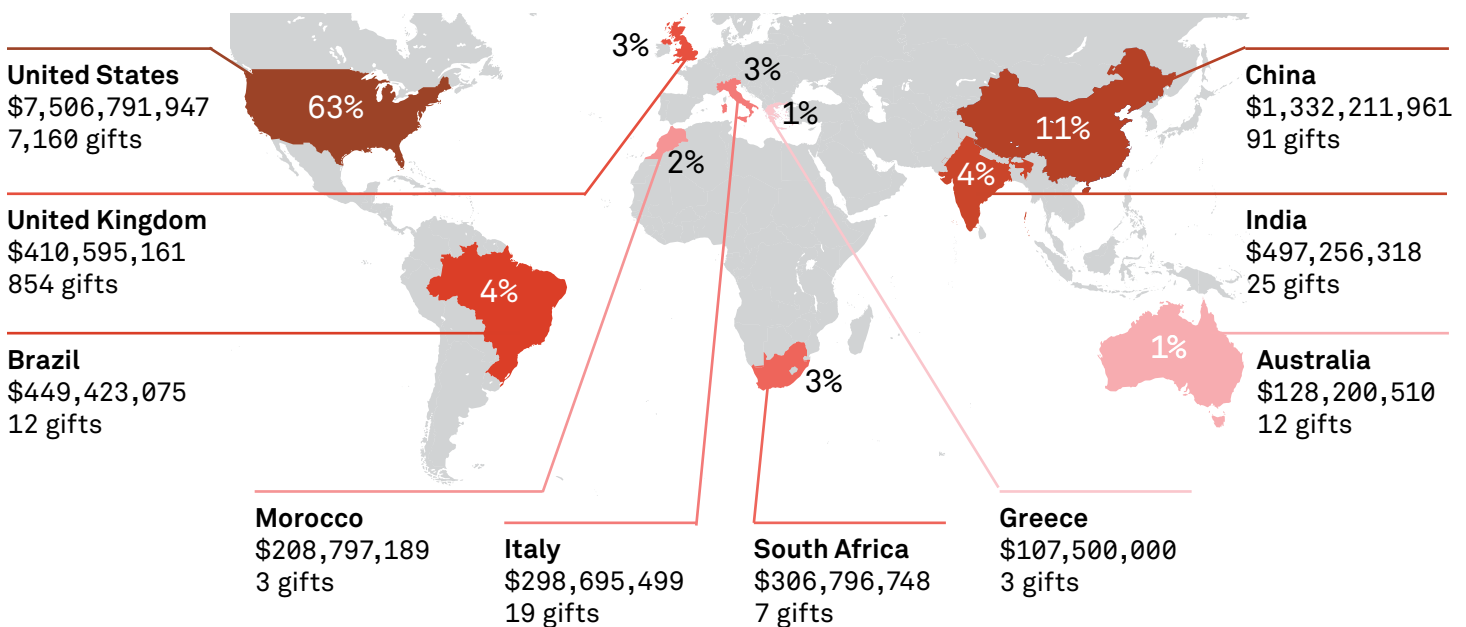
**Community foundations awarded the highest number of grants.**

Community foundations awarded more grants than any other type of grantmaker (49 percent of total awards). Although community foundations are not giving the largest grants (the median grant size is \$10,000), they are playing an important role in this time of crisis. Because of their understanding of the contexts in which they operate, their dollars target community-based organizations that address local needs. Many community foundations are also anticipating the longer-term needs of their communities and reserving funds to meet them, while also recognizing and funding the immediate crisis.

**The global crisis spurred a global response.** The data set includes gifts from donors in 38 countries and special administrative regions (including Hong Kong and Macao) to recipient organizations located in 52 countries. The timing of donations followed the spread of the virus: in late February, China accounted for the majority of funding, with donations from South Korea surging in early March. By late March, the United States had committed the most funding, followed by China, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

The largest aggregate donations in the data set came from the United States, China, India, Brazil, and the United Kingdom. Concurrently, as of June 30, the United States, Brazil, and Russia had the highest number of COVID-19 cases, and the United States, Brazil, and the United Kingdom reported the most COVID-related deaths.

**Top donor countries by total funding**



Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020. Excludes contributions made by donors to other donors included in the analysis to avoid double-counting of dollars.



**High-net-worth individuals contributed vast amounts for the pandemic.** Gifts by individual donors were responsible for \$1.6 billion of COVID-19-related giving. The largest was a \$1 billion commitment by Jack Dorsey, CEO of Twitter and Square. This was, in fact, the largest gift in the entire data set. Dorsey's contribution to the limited liability company he created, Smart Small, was announced as a gift for global COVID-19 relief. He is disclosing where this funding is ultimately going via a publicly accessible [Google sheet](#) that is regularly updated. As of June 30, 2020, \$163 million had been disbursed, the majority for COVID-19, but more recent grants address social justice.

Our data collection of gifts by high-net-worth individuals is limited to those above \$50,000 that were pledged through public announcements. Even without the smaller gifts, pledges by high-net-worth individuals accounted for 13 percent of total COVID-19 funding we identified in the first six months of the year.

---

At least  
**\$425.9 million**  
has been allocated for COVID-19 so far through Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, and Vanguard Charitable donor-advised funds.

**Individual donors also increased gifts through donor-advised funds.** [Fidelity Charitable](#), the largest donor-advised fund program in the U.S., reported \$2.5 billion in total grant dollars as of May 2020, an 18 percent increase over the same time last year. More than \$236 million supported more than 9,600 charities for COVID-19 relief. Giving to human services organizations, including food banks and homeless shelters, increased dramatically, with 68 percent higher grant volumes to those organizations than the same time last year.

In addition, [Schwab Charitable](#) reported that grantmaking in the first half of 2020 surged nearly 50 percent, with \$3.3 billion granted to more than 100,000 charities. Donors granted more than \$145 million for COVID-19 relief from mid-February through the end of June. And as of March 31, donor-advised funds at [Vanguard Charitable](#) donated more than \$1.3 billion, of which \$71.9 million was directed to COVID-19 relief through 6,900 grants.

In total, the donor-advised funds of these three charitable affiliates of financial services companies alone have allocated at least \$452.9 million for COVID-19.

**Some 861 COVID-19 response funds were created.** Washington State reported the first COVID-19 case in the U.S., and the [Seattle Foundation](#) was the first community foundation to create a fund, signaling what was ahead for the rest of the country. Two of every three COVID-19 funds were created by community foundations, representing every state in the U.S. as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Bradley Free Clinic conducts a drive-thru for medication access during the coronavirus pandemic. Photo courtesy of the National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics



Most funds are organized by geography, but some focus on specific vulnerable populations. [First Nations Development Institute](#) and the [Decolonizing Wealth Project](#) each created a fund to swiftly deploy resources to Native-led and tribal organizations. Borealis Philanthropy houses the [COVID-19 Disability Inclusion Fund](#) and collaborated with Destination Tomorrow and Third Wave Fund to launch the [COVID-19 Collective Fund for Trans Communities](#).

---

As of June 30, CDP's COVID-19 Response Fund distributed just over **\$10 million** to 41 organizations.

The [Center for Disaster Philanthropy's COVID-19 Response Fund](#) supports preparedness and containment efforts as well as response and recovery activities for those affected by COVID-19 and for responders. As of June 30, the fund raised nearly \$27 million and distributed just over \$10 million to 41 organizations working in the U.S. and abroad. Through its Early Recovery Fund and Tribal Recovery Fund, CDP provided an additional eight organizations with nearly \$600,000 in funding.

The [U.S. Household Disaster Giving in 2017 and 2018](#) report found that U.S. households give about \$80 per year to disasters, potentially as much as \$3 billion per year in aggregate. The evidence suggests that this trend has continued and even increased during COVID-19.

## How much did grantmakers award?

Focusing specifically on the \$10.3 billion awarded by institutional philanthropy (foundations, corporations, and public charities), the top 20 donors accounted for nearly half (46 percent) of COVID-19 philanthropy. Among the 836 institutional donors, 145 (17 percent) awarded \$10 million or more, accounting for 89 percent of funding.

Many corporate donations include in-kind contributions.

### Top corporate donors by total funding

	Name	Location	U.S. dollars awarded	No. of gifts
1	Google.org	CA	\$1,157,750,000	17
2	ByteDance	China	436,840,000	10
3	MasterCard Incorporated Contributions Program	NY	275,300,000	3
4	Itau Unibanco Holding S.A.	Brazil	239,826,923	1
5	Cisco Systems, Inc. Corporate Giving Program	CA	220,000,000	4
6	Visa Foundation	CA	210,000,000	2
7	Royal Holding Al Mada	Morocco	197,912,028	1
8	Wells Fargo Foundation	MN	182,000,000	5
9	Tencent Holdings	China	173,040,000	2
10	NBCUniversal, Inc. Contributions Program	NY	150,000,000	1

Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020.

### Top independent foundations by total funding

	Name	Location	U.S. dollars awarded	No. of gifts
1	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	\$355,000,000	6
2	Open Society Foundations	NY	130,000,000	1
3	The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	NJ	113,112,207	52
4	Stavros Niarchos Foundation	Greece	107,500,000	3
5	Minderoo Foundation Trust	Australia	100,537,600	1
6	Michael & Susan Dell Foundation	TX	100,000,000	2
7	Lilly Endowment Inc.	IN	69,500,000	6
8	Wellcome Trust	United Kingdom	64,919,660	2
9	Motsepe Family Foundation	South Africa	55,631,940	1
10	The Rockefeller Foundation	NY	55,024,059	9

Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020.

**Community foundations rapidly distributed grant dollars to their respective communities.** The Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta awarded \$55.1 million through 319 grants, some of which was distributed through its Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, created in partnership with the United Way of Greater Atlanta. By June 15, the Seattle Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund had awarded more than \$20 million. The second phase of funding in June awarded \$9.2 million to more than 200 community-based organizations serving those who “suffer from longstanding economic inequities and disparities due to racism.” And on June 26, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation announced that it had deployed \$165 million through grants from donor-advised and corporate-advised funds as well as a variety of COVID-19 response funds. (Not all grantmaking by community foundations is reflected in the data set.)



## Top institutional donors by U.S. state

**New York**  
\$131,425,873  
275 gifts



**California**  
\$105,000,202  
1,121 gifts



**Georgia**  
\$94,633,238  
688 gifts



**New Jersey**  
\$76,375,337  
320 gifts



**Washington**  
\$70,944,394  
181 gifts



Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020. Excludes giving by high-net-worth individuals and awards to unknown recipients. Also excludes contributions made by donors to other donors included in the analysis to avoid double-counting of dollars.

## Who received funding?

### Top specified recipients of institutional funding

	Recipient organization	Location	U.S. dollars awarded	No. of gifts
1	COVID-19 Therapeutics Accelerator	WA	\$172,000,000	7
2	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance	Switzerland	115,000,000	4
3	E4E Relief, LLC	NC	75,000,000	2
4	World Economic Forum	Switzerland	54,374,950	1
5	Chinese Red Cross Foundation	China	48,556,060	28
6	Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Ethiopia	40,000,000	1
7	Indiana Association of United Ways	IN	30,000,000	1
8	Hope Bridge Korea Disaster Relief Association	South Korea	29,594,313	2
9	Guangdong Province Guoqiang Charity Foundation—Foundation Administered Program	China	28,840,000	1
10	CDC Foundation	GA	24,500,000	13

Excludes giving by high-net-worth individuals and awards to unknown recipients.

E4E Relief administers the Brave of Heart Fund, providing support to families of healthcare workers who lost their lives to COVID-19.

### Many commitments lacked details about where funding is ultimately going.

In fact, 85 percent of funding by institutional donors (\$8.9 billion), including the majority of the largest awards, was awarded to “unknown” or “multiple” recipients. We therefore have little information about most donations and where they are directed. Unilever made the largest commitment by an institutional donor to a known recipient: \$54.4 million in soap, bleach, and other products to the World Economic Forum's COVID Action Platform.

## Top recipients of institutional funding by U.S. state

**Washington**  
\$199,312,065  
69 gifts



**Georgia**  
\$130,680,324  
709 gifts



**California**  
\$95,760,331  
1,146 gifts



**North Carolina**  
\$92,831,010  
298 gifts



**New York**  
\$55,494,786  
302 gifts



Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020. Excludes giving by high-net-worth individuals and awards to unknown recipients. Also excludes contributions made by donors to other donors included in the analysis to avoid double-counting of dollars.

Of funding to health-related organizations, less than **2%** was directed to mental health organizations.

## Issue focus of recipient organizations

	U.S. dollars awarded	%	No. of gifts	%
Health	\$476,411,463	33	1,062	14
Public safety	423,625,164	29	423	6
Human services	371,293,561	26	3,529	46
Philanthropy and nonprofit management	171,148,024	12	352	5
International Relations	128,938,558	9	94	1
Community and Economic Development	116,549,512	8	884	12

Data set includes pledges, cash donations, and in-kind contributions in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020. Organizations may address multiple issue areas (e.g., health and public safety) and may, therefore, be counted in more than one category. Excludes giving by high-net-worth individuals and awards to unknown recipients. Also excludes contributions made by donors to other donors included in the analysis to avoid double-counting of dollars.

**Health-focused organizations received nearly a third of institutional funding.** Of the \$476.4 million by foundations and public charities to health-related organizations, 80 percent went to public health organizations, whereas less than 2 percent was directed to mental health organizations. Public safety organizations ranked second in overall funding by institutional donors, with funds going primarily to those engaged in disaster and emergency management. Human service organizations received 26 percent of funding but 46 percent of awards.

**Few awards in the data set were specifically identified as general support.** Despite many foundations' commitment to providing flexible support for grantees during this time (see p. 7), only 3 percent of funding to specified recipient organizations was explicitly described

as flexible or unrestricted. This figure likely reflects a lack of detail in the award description. Arguably, awards that reference emergency funds or simply have the description “COVID-19 response” may be for unrestricted support. Therefore, it is unclear how many awards actually met the goal of increased flexibility.

Still, there were strong examples of unrestricted support. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation awarded Ethiopian Public Health Association \$350,000 for general support in response to COVID-19. The Heising-Simons Foundation awarded a number of general support grants, including \$200,000 to the National Domestic Workers Alliance.

Funders also allowed current grantees to reallocate their funding to COVID-19 activities, another form of flexibility not reflected in the data set, which largely captured new commitments.

---

Only  
**5%** of institutional giving  
to specified recipients  
explicitly identified  
communities of color.

**Proportionately little institutional funding was explicitly designated for specific populations and vulnerable communities.** Among institutional giving to specified recipients, 5 percent of dollars and 12 percent of awards explicitly identified communities of color or people of color-serving recipient organizations as intended beneficiaries. (Some gifts may have been awarded to work serving these communities without naming them specifically.)

Substantial gifts were made to these groups, however. PayPal announced \$10 million to the Association for Enterprise Opportunity to promote racial equity through empowerment grants to Black-owned businesses affected by COVID-19 or civil unrest. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded \$4 million to the American Indian College Fund, to be distributed to a network of tribal colleges to support students affected by the pandemic. And the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc. awarded \$140,000 to the Herman J. Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an initiative dedicated to empowering African American entrepreneurs and small business owners.

Three percent of funding was specifically directed to women and girls, or organizations serving women and girls. Caterpillar, Inc. announced a \$250,000 donation to the China Women’s Development Foundation for coronavirus relief efforts. The Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham awarded \$100,000 to the Women’s Fund of Greater Birmingham for immediate basic needs related to the crisis.

Two percent of funding was explicitly directed to immigrants and refugees, or organizations addressing their needs. The London-based Paul Hamlyn Foundation announced a \$493,472 donation to Refugee Action, a U.K. charity, to address the challenges posed by coronavirus. Hartford Foundation for Public Giving donated



A mobile shower at the Symba Center.  
Photo courtesy of the National  
Association of Free & Charitable Clinics



\$100,000 to the Hispanic Health Council to meet the basic human needs of those experiencing health inequities, with a focus on immigrant women and girls.

Two percent of funding specifically identified older adults. The Eisner Foundation awarded a series of grants to California nonprofits for services to older adults, including \$50,000 to the Motion Picture and Television Fund to build the infrastructure for the LA Connect Call Hub. The platform will facilitate phone connections between volunteers and isolated older adults, with the goal of being scaled so that other organizations can use it to serve their constituents. The Delaware Community Foundation awarded \$50,000 to the Modern Maturity Center to deliver meals and grocery shop for older adults in Kent County who could no longer participate in congregate meals because of the pandemic.

---

Only  
**1%** of institutional giving  
to specified recipients  
was explicitly directed for  
people with disabilities or  
organizations addressing  
their needs.

Only 1 percent of dollars was directed explicitly for people with disabilities, including those with psychosocial disabilities. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded \$200,000 in general support to the New Jersey Association for Mental Health in response to the pandemic. Also, the Cleveland Foundation provided a local nonprofit, Koinonia Homes, with \$50,000 to hire and train additional direct support professionals to assist clients with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities across Northeast Ohio and to support its current direct support professionals during the pandemic.

# How to make COVID-19 funding more effective

---

Check out the Center for Disaster Philanthropy's [COVID-19 disaster profile](#) for more information on how to make funding more effective.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to pose ongoing and ever-expanding challenges for the nonprofit sector. And although it is important that funders act quickly to respond to immediate needs, efforts to support the longer-term recovery from the combined effects of the pandemic and the associated economic recession should not be ignored.

The Center for Disaster Philanthropy has several resources to help funders make informed decisions about their coronavirus-related grantmaking. Here are a few of the suggestions for effective giving:

**Provide unrestricted support:** Nonprofits need the flexibility of unrestricted funds to navigate the challenges of the pandemic. Many organizations may be coping with lost income from cancelled fee-based services or fundraising events. Flexible dollars can provide much-needed support to survive the pandemic and continue to provide valuable services.

**Expand on existing giving:** Reach out to your grantees to see how the pandemic is affecting their work. Consider issuing additional grants to meet their latest needs, changing reporting requirements and deadlines, or allowing them to redirect funds.

**Support local nonprofits and knowledge—in the U.S. and internationally—that focus on communities of color and other vulnerable populations:** Local knowledge is crucial in addressing this pandemic as it spreads across different regions and countries. Support community leaders and organizations on the ground so they can develop programming as needs arise. As with all disasters, people who were vulnerable before COVID-19 have become increasingly vulnerable during the pandemic.

**Give to funds:** Many community foundations have set up funds that can quickly disseminate grants to local organizations. Community foundations are often highly connected with their communities

and know the local actors. Funders should also consider giving to specialized intermediaries that are tackling key issues such as race, gender, and undocumented populations. Intermediary funds can consolidate donors' gifts to provide grants to support grassroots, frontline organizing, or service delivery within organizations that may not have the capacity to receive large grants. Giving to funds also allows funders to reach the most vulnerable populations in a community who are highly impacted by COVID-19.

**Partner with other funders:** Funders can partner and create joint or independently run funds, allowing nonprofits to complete only one application. For example, more than 20 funders, including the Communities Foundation of Texas and local United Ways in North Texas, created a funder collaborative called North Texas Cares with a joint application form and system.

**Fund land trusts:** Long-term housing recovery needs will be steep, especially if other disasters are layered on top of the pandemic over the next few months. By supporting land trusts and/or donating surplus property to community land trusts, donors can help create and maintain affordable housing in communities.

## Methodology

Data for this analysis came from publicly available sources in English, including press releases, websites, membership reports, and surveys as well as funders reporting disbursements directly to Candid. The data set includes a mix of pledges, commitments, and grants awarded. The aggregate findings presented in this report reflect data in Candid's database as of July 7, 2020. The level of detail for each award varies dramatically. Some contain rich descriptions for each recipient, whereas others provide only an overall total without specifying the recipient(s).

The giving recorded in this analysis is substantial but not comprehensive. Although much of the largest foundation, corporate, and other institutional donor funding in response to the pandemic has likely been captured, there are undoubtedly more donors and awards that are not reflected in the data set. We are, however, adding commitments to our database every day.

For the latest funding data, please visit Candid's coronavirus special issue web page. And to see how coronavirus funding compares with other funding for disasters and

humanitarian crises, visit the Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy website and funding map, a collaboration between the Center for Disaster Philanthropy and Candid.

Please share your data with us!  
If you are a funder and would like to see your grantmaking included in the funding map and future COVID-19 analyses, please email [egrants@candid.org](mailto:egrants@candid.org) for more information.