



ManyHands

Together we make a difference

#strongertogether

April 2020 Newsletter

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MANY HANDS UPDATES

Grantmaking in a Pandemic

In this time of crisis, we believe the support Many Hands can offer local nonprofits is more important than ever. We remain committed to completing the 2020 grant cycle, while safeguarding the health of our members and the staff and clients of applicant organizations. To this end, we have made important changes to our grantmaking process. Since mid-March, site visits and Focus Area Committee (FAC) meetings have taken place online. Site visited organizations have met with committee members and answered their questions via Zoom calls--a format that has the advantage of removing capacity constraints. FAC meetings are also being conducted on Zoom, with votes being taken online. We are grateful to everyone who has taken part in this process for their flexibility and willingness to try something new.



We are currently reviewing options for the Annual Meeting. The in-person meeting scheduled for May 14 will not take place, but members will have an opportunity to hear from the four finalist organizations and to cast a secure ballot online. We expect to communicate the details of this process in early May.

We continue to welcome donations for the 2020 grant cycle. To become a member or make an additional or first-time gift, please click on "Donate & Join." To participate in voting for the 2020 Many Hands \$100,000 Impact Grantee, please observe the following deadlines:

- Checks must be received no later than **Friday, May 8.**
- Online gifts must be made no later than **Wednesday, May 13.**

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Gray at treasurer@manyhandsdc.org. Thank you for your support.

[Donate & Join](#)

Panel on Maternal Mortality - POSTPONED



The event originally planned for April 22 has been postponed to the fall. We are grateful to Andria Cornell ([Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs](#)) and Abayea Pelt ([Community of Hope](#), a 2004 Many Hands Partner Grantee) for their willingness to educate Many Hands members about the maternal mortality crisis in the District of Columbia. We look forward to hosting this important discussion on a future date.

RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS

Many Hands Grantees: Adapting to Challenging Times

Nonprofits have weathered tough times before, but [the challenges they currently face](#) are unprecedented in their intensity and scope. Giving has plummeted as donors face financial uncertainty or worse. Organizations have canceled major fundraisers and laid off staff. Facing strict limits on public gatherings and profound concerns about public health, many groups have been forced to rethink their operations. Nonetheless, local nonprofits, including the 2019 Many Hands grantees, continue to provide vital services across the Greater Washington region.



[Access Youth](#) has moved key programs online, including reading groups, the young women's group MADE (My Attitude Determines Everything), and for credit Life Skills classes. Access Youth staff are also reaching out to every student and family to assess their emotional and physical well-being and determine their needs.



[CASA/Prince George's County](#) has replaced biweekly meetings between volunteers and children in foster care with weekly phone/video visits. Case supervisors check in with volunteers weekly to ensure they remain up to date on children's needs. In addition, CASA is using its Transitioning Youth Emergency Fund to help youth aging out of foster care meet basic needs like food.



[Greater DC Diaper Bank](#) has partnered with organizations like Martha's Table to create "Diaper Need Hubs" across the region where families can receive food and diapers. After distributing more than 500,000 diapers in 10 days, Diaper Bank faced empty warehouse shelves for the first time in years. To read an interview with Executive Director Corinne Cannon about the impact of the crisis, [click here](#).



[New Endeavors by Women](#) is practicing both social distancing and encouragement to keep staff and formerly homeless clients safe, as Executive Director Wanda Steptoe explains in a [message shared on Facebook](#). New Endeavors volunteers are writing supportive letters to residents of its transitional and permanent housing programs, who may feel particularly isolated at this time.

Many other Many Hands grantees have similarly pivoted to continue serving clients. For the complete list of grantees, [click here](#).

Community Efforts: Targeting Emergency Relief



During this unprecedented time, many nonprofits--especially those on the front lines of the crisis--are seeing dramatic increases in demand for their services. Several trusted institutions in our region have established emergency response funds to support their work. To learn more about these regional pooled funds, [click here](#) for a roundup provided by the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers. If you are interested in providing emergency support to our community during this crisis, please consider contributing to one of these efforts.

[Join Many Hands Today!](#)

Many Hands is a women's grantmaking organization committed to making a lasting impact on the lives of Washington, DC area women, children, and families in need and to helping its members become well-informed donors. Many Hands is a 501(c)(3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

