EOF Network Emergency Response and Planning Survey Results

Economic Opportunity Funders (EOF) invited members to share the issues and populations they are most concerned about as a result of COVID-19 and the ensuing economic crisis.

A total of 34 funders completed the survey. Key themes from the survey include:

- Most respondents are extending deadlines or deliverables, postponing site visits, and relaxing grant requirements.
- Fewer respondents are increasing current grants, donating to an emergency fund or creating/participating in rapid response fund (more are thinking about these rather than currently doing them).
- Economic security topics respondents are most interested in being connected to include paid leave, recession planning, immigrant workers and rebuilding critical industries for low-wage workers.
- The topics respondents are most interested in addressing in the funder strategy room varied, but fell into three broad buckets: 1) stimulus implementation and gaps 2) recession readiness and planning; and 3) opportunities for building a better system for public income supports and supports for work (not going back to the status quo).

See a detailed summary of the survey results below.

**In response to COVID-19 and the ensuing economic crisis, what are you doing or thinking about doing related to economic security?**

![Bar chart showing the distribution of responses to various actions related to economic security.](chart.png)
Other activities not mentioned above:

- Capacity building for nonprofits on how to fundraise during a crisis
- Providing capacity building to assist grantees in applying for government grants/funds; training in digital organizing; microgrants to grantees for tech needs to convert to teleworking
- Making grants to organizations that are not currently grantees who are doing important response work. Considering capacity building support through grants or other means for grantees.
- Changing the focus of future grants awards to include covid19 response.
- Closely following federal and state action to identify holes and gaps that will need to be filled.
- Convening, coordination, technical assistance to support existing or emerging efforts.
- Curating information and putting together peer to peer calls on adaptation.
- Elevating direct stimulus cash payments in the national conversation, coordinating many of the efforts on this topic, and providing policy backup to others working on this issue. Also looking at monopoly issues raised in this moment (e.g. the supply of ventilators is restricted by monopolistic behavior on the part of manufacturers).
- Engaging finance and fundraising professionals to support grantee partners applying for emergency federal, state, and local government funds; increased grant target, initially by 20%.
- Launching emergency loan fund with priority consideration for credit unions able to do emergency ITIN consumer loans.
- Overall giving individual grantees flexibility to let us know how we can best support them, which may include some of the actions listed above, depending on the grantee's specific/stated needs.
- Releasing a number of strategic support grants to groups that advancing worker rights and protection policy change and providing support for grantees to apply to Cares Act PPP. We are also thinking about longer term financial capacity building.
- Signing/co-authoring policy advocacy letters, funder coordination and education, information aggregation, synthesis and distribution
- Thinking about technical assistance/support beyond the check for grantees
- We are a PSO, but trying to support our funders in many of the above activities.
- Exploring providing professional services for grantee partners and administrative and organizational supports to grantees.
What economic security topics or issues are you most interested in learning more about/can we connect you to?

Other responses:

1. Small businesses/entrepreneurs, worker-owned businesses/co-ops, undocumented immigrants
2. Strategies for making permanent some of the "temporary" social protections being enacted; racial equity in COVID-19 responses
3. Special focus: disproportionate impact on women
4. Frontline worker protections; acceleration of corporate power aggregation/fracturing of work; virus and economic projections/scenario planning
5. Rebuilding/reimagining safety net; special focus: vulnerable families
6. Philanthropy supporting emergency loans
7. Public/government systems change on local and state levels
8. State budget systems; racial equity; CDFI - rural banking systems
What are the issues/topics/populations about which you are most interested to connect with funder colleagues through the EOF strategy room?

- Any of those checked above.
- Cash transfers/UBI, rebuilding/economic recovery
- Children and families with a focus on those experiencing gender, race and other inequities
- Connecting anti-hunger efforts between the elderly and children to allow for meals to be delivered to homes.
- Coordination
- Homelessness/affordable housing
- How civic engagement funding aligns with economic opportunity funding; how to scale innovation in public system design and service delivery; outsourcing of government-run and funded anti-poverty programs to nonprofit sector
- How do we best understand what the federal funds will cover and where we can fill the gaps
- Immigrants, young adults (disconnected and disengaged), women.
- Impact on women across a range of issue areas
- low-wage workers, families
- Making sure we can hold a free and fair election in 2020 - and, in the future, create a democracy and government that can manage catastrophic risks like pandemics.
- Paid leave, UI, childcare; youth and young adults
- Paid leave, unemployment insurance, tax credits. Populations 0-24, with focus on young people of color 14-24 years of age
- racial equity; worker justice; economic justice; mutual support strategies at community level
- Recession planning and longer-term support for nonprofits while foundations tighten their belts because of the recession.
- Relationship of immediate issues with longer term structural change; youth and young adults
- Supports for undocumented workers and childcare related
- vulnerable children/communities, communities of color, low-wage workers, non-traditional workers
- Vulnerable communities/communities of color/family econ security/policy-advocacy strategies
- We are in learning mode. I'm interested in everything.
- We're a small foundation focused specifically on career pathways. Thinking about how to shift our strategy, which has been built for a time of full employment.
- When funds will be available to impacted people and when and how we can help inform state implementation through our grantees.
- Worker rights, worker organizing, re-imagining economy, corporate accountability and responsibility to paying and protecting workers in COVID19 crisis. Narrative change related to essential workers and low wage workers. People who were considered the bottom of the barrel are now lifted up as essential workers, but they are not being honored with fair pay or healthy working conditions. There is an opportunity to reframe frontline, low wage workers in the popular consciousness and the kind of pay and say that they deserve.
- Racial Equity and focusing on efforts that will Black, Latinx, Native, and women communities.