



**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
— OF MENDOCINO COUNTY —

# COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM IMPACT REPORT

## GRATITUDE

As we bring our COVID-19 Relief Program to a close, we wish to express our sincere gratitude to the many donors who made this work possible. As we look back, we are so thankful for the many donors and nonprofits who showed up for the community during this crisis, and we are pleased to share the impact made over two years.

## OVERVIEW

In March 2020, when the shelter-in-place order began, the Community Foundation of Mendocino County launched our COVID-19 Relief Program to support individuals, families, and nonprofits impacted by the pandemic. Our goal was to address the immediate needs of our community while taking a long-term approach to providing support. With the help of our donors, the relief program has offered much-needed financial assistance for two years. We have just awarded our final round of funding to alleviate the immediate impacts of the pandemic through individual assistance, hunger relief, nonprofit relief, and student relief grants.

## INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE: \$937,000

The individual assistance program was designed to provide rental assistance, utility assistance, basic needs, groceries, and emergency financial aid to those most impacted by the pandemic. We made grants totaling \$937,000 to eight organizations to ensure access to these services across the county: Anderson Valley Health Center, Conception Coast Project (i.e., COVID Response Network), Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center, MCOE Foster and Homeless Youth Services Program, Mendocino Coast Children's Fund, Mendonoma Health Alliance, North Coast Opportunities, and Round Valley Indian Health Center. Your support allowed us to ensure the most vulnerable populations in our community remained housed and fed during the pandemic.

**\$3,356,773**

## TOTAL GRANTED

The Community Foundation of Mendocino County has taken a multi-sector approach providing COVID-19 Relief Funding to individuals and nonprofits. Since launching the program we have awarded just over \$3.3M in relief.

**\$937,000**

## INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Providing rent and utility assistance, gas cards, and groceries for individuals and families impacted by the pandemic.

**\$603,900**

## NONPROFIT RELIEF

Supporting the nonprofit organizations that care for our community.

**\$1,505,653**

## HUNGER RELIEF

Providing funding for meals, food boxes, and grocery gift cards for individuals and families impacted by the pandemic.

**\$54,450**

## STUDENT RELIEF

Supporting scholarship recipients and Mendocino College students in need of individual assistance.

## **NONPROFIT RELIEF: \$603,900**

The nonprofit sector provided the critical safety-net required to help our community through this crisis. With increased demand and reduced revenue, it was important to offer financial support to these organizations. Since the start of the pandemic, we have awarded \$603,900 in nonprofit relief grants to organizations countywide. Funds allowed nonprofit organizations to cover gaps in operating, pivot to respond safely, and broaden the scope of their offerings to meet the ever-changing needs.

## **HUNGER RELIEF: \$1,505,653**

Food insecurity continues to be one of the critical issues for Mendocino County during the pandemic. Food banks and pantries across the county report increased demand for food. To help meet this demand, the Community Foundation made grants to hunger relief organizations, specifically to support food distribution countywide. Organizations included small, rural food pantries run by committed volunteers, congregate meal sites, senior centers, and our local food banks. We were able to leverage donations with FEMA/ARPA and CalFresh funds from the County of Mendocino to award \$1,505,653 in hunger relief over two years.

## **STUDENT RELIEF: \$54,450**

The pandemic exacerbated the needs of many students and their families, making it challenging to cover the cost of food, housing, tuition, and travel. We created the Student Relief Fund to assist eligible students with one-time cash assistance to overcome obstacles that could prevent them from completing their academic program. Support was provided to 25 scholarship recipients and 387 Mendocino College students in need.

## **CONCLUSION**

We launched this program, unsure how long support would be necessary, unaware that we would face the pandemic's impacts two years later. Our goal was to support the community through the most challenging times, and with restrictions easing, we are grateful to have made a difference for those most impacted. Since establishing our COVID-19 Relief Program, we have granted over \$3.3M. Our final round of funding was awarded in early 2022 to support individuals and nonprofits, and we have now closed the program.

Your investment was critical to the success of our relief efforts, and we thank you for all you have done to help alleviate the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

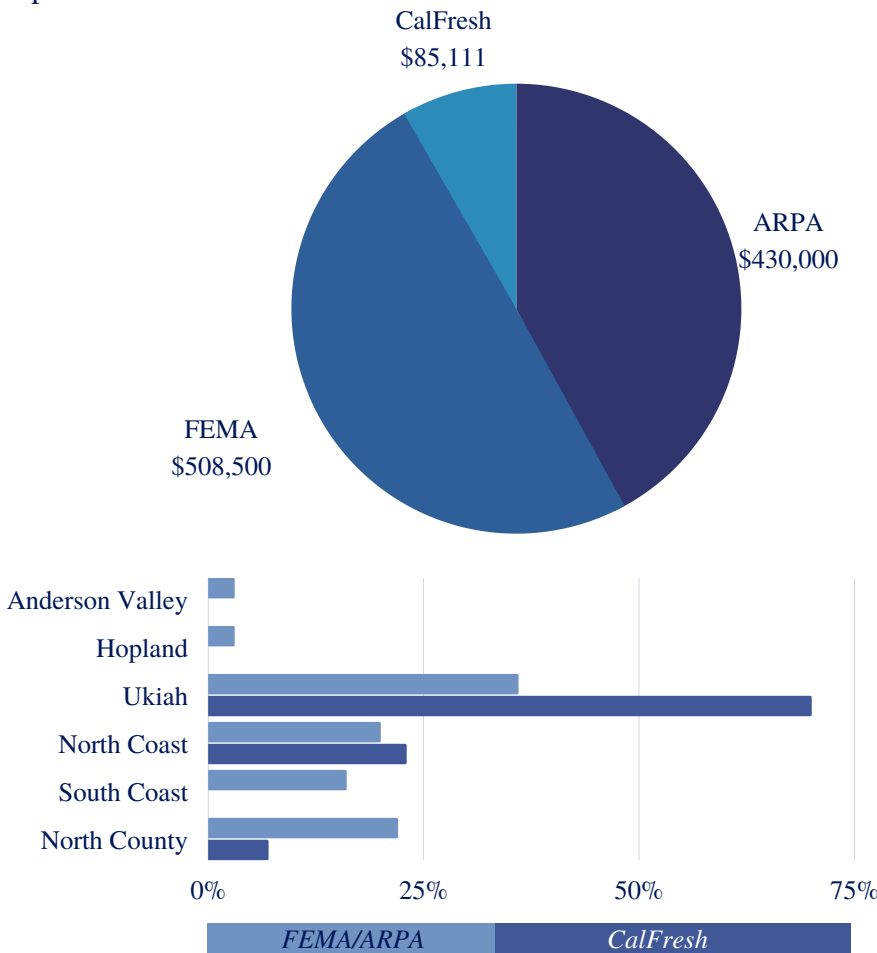
## **HUNGER RELIEF GRANTEES**

Action Network, Anderson Valley Food Pantry (Sueno Latino), Anderson Valley Senior Center, Caring Kitchen, Coastal Seniors, Inc., Ford Street Project (Ukiah Food Bank), Fort Bragg High School Anchor Academy, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Indian Senior Center, Laytonville Healthy Start Family Resource Center, MCOE Foster and Homeless Youth Services Program, Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, Mendocino College Food Pantry, Mendocino County AIDS/Viral Hepatitis Network, Mendocino Food and Nutrition Program (Fort Bragg Food Bank), Mendocino Presbyterian Church, Mendonoma Health Alliance, North Coast Opportunities, Nuestra Alianza de Willits, Noyo Food Forest, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Plowshares, Potter Valley Youth and Community Center, Project Sanctuary, Redwood Coast Seniors, Redwood Community Services, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Round Valley Indian Health Center, Round Valley Indian Tribes Senior Center, Harwood Memorial Park, Ukiah Senior Center, Ukiah Valley Christmas Effort, Willits Community Services (Willits Food Bank), Willits Daily Bread, Willits Senior Center.

# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO HUNGER RELIEF FUNDING

## TOTAL GRANTED IN HUNGER RELIEF: \$1,023,611

In collaboration with funding provided by the County of Mendocino, The Community Foundation of Mendocino County has awarded just over \$1M in hunger relief grants countywide to food banks, senior centers, congregate meal sites, and tribal entities to relieve food scarcity during the pandemic.



### Over 281,831 MEALS

Provided through congregate dining sites and Meals on Wheels programs.

### Over 2,215 BOXES OF FOOD

Delivered through Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, and MendoLake Food Hub.

### Over 284,949 POUNDS OF FOOD

Delivered countywide through Mendocino Food & Nutrition Program.

*Willits Daily Bread has been able to purchase a lot more healthy foods to feed the hungry. Fresh fruit, veggies, healthy beverages, good hearty nutritious bread. We appreciate these funds and the way it really trickles down to those in need.*  
- Cindy Savage, Willits Daily Bread

*This funding has made a tremendous difference for Caring Kitchen. We have been able to reach more vulnerable and medically challenged individuals in our county, reaching beyond exclusively cancer patients and providing nourishing meals for those that are often isolated and not able to shop or prepare meals for themselves. Our clients are so very grateful!*  
- April Cunningham, Caring Kitchen

*Plowshares served roughly 50,000 meals in just nine months to our community's most vulnerable populations. This grant provided food to those in need and enabled us to purchase directly from our local businesses and vendors, keeping these funds within our community.*  
- Michelle Shaw, Plowshares

*ARPA funding helped Laytonville Healthy Start Community & Family Resource Center tremendously - we are the only source for on-the-ground assistance in the community - providing a monthly food bank, emergency food bags, weekly to-go meals to seniors/those home-bound due to health risks, emergency diapers, hygiene supplies, clothing, application assistance and much more. We remained open during the pandemic, and were able to shift our services and supports because of funders like you- we wouldn't have been able to respond to our community's needs during the pandemic without this funding.*  
- Jayma Shields Spence, Laytonville Healthy Start

*"Inflation is making it difficult for my family. We love what is in the box."*

*"As a low-income household, all the items delivered to my house really made a difference."*

*"We really appreciate the help from the Community Foundation. All the food and supplies boxes came to rescue at this trying times."*

-Pinoleville Pomo Nation families