

From Colorado Small Business Development Center

DENVER - Last week, Governor Jared Polis announced the launch of joint efforts to raise relief funds and volunteer efforts to address this public health crisis.

Help Colorado Now has raised \$7.7 million dollars from nearly 4,000 individuals, foundations and companies since the fund launched. More than 9,000 volunteers including 2,000 health care volunteers have signed up to date.

“This is exciting news at a tough time for our state, and this milestone could not have been achieved without the support and spirit of Coloradans,” said Gov. Polis. **“This is an opportunity to reflect on what we can achieve when we work together and how we can help our fellow Coloradans and small businesses bounce back stronger than ever. I’m thankful for the support these efforts have received to date. Let’s all continue to rise to the challenge.”**

The grant process has now begun and will be on a rolling basis. Those interested in applying for relief funds up to \$25K can apply here.

Coloradans can donate or sign up to volunteer at www.HelpColoradoNow.org. The Colorado COVID Relief Fund's purpose is to raise funds and coordinate the allocation of those contributions. Funds raised will be used to support the needs of communities impacted by COVID-19 in both response and recovery. Organizations helping with the response to COVID-19 are now eligible to apply for funds.

The fund will support work in three categories: prevention, impact, and recovery efforts. This will include things like medical and cleaning supplies, food services, early childhood education, small business support, behavioral health services, and more. The fund will not provide direct assistance to individuals, but to community-based organizations providing direct assistance.

Coloradans who can’t donate money are encouraged to donate their time by volunteering. Many people have skills that can be applied during this time, especially former health care workers who could return to the workforce to assist with the demand. In addition to funding and volunteers, the Governor continues to encourage healthy donors to donate blood to prevent a shortage in Colorado. Coloradans can visit Vitalant.org or click here to find a blood drive or donation center in their area.

The Colorado COVID Relief Fund is hosted by the State of Colorado and Mile High United Way. The effort is co-chaired by Rick Sakpin and Roxane White. Additionally, the Colorado Health Foundation assisted in getting the application process up and running. The fund is overseen by a committee of community leaders from across Colorado and will be providing aid to support Colorado communities and organizations affected by the

recent outbreak of COVID-19.

Just a reminder about COVID-19 Precautions:

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is leading the State's multi-agency crisis response. We encourage you and all of your partners to stay informed with reliable, up-to-date information through CDPHE's website: colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus and the [Center for Disease Control](https://www.cdc.gov).

- Coloradans should stay informed and take simple preventive actions.
- Frequently and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or use your inner elbow or sleeve.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you're sick, and keep your children home if they are sick.
- Clean surfaces in your home and personal items such as cell phones, using regular household products.
- Be calm and prepared.
- [FEMA: Guidance for COVID-19 preparedness](#)
- [CDC: Getting your household ready for COVID-19](#)

Additional sources of information:

- COVID-19 Hotline: Call 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911
- Email COHELP@RMPDC.org.
- State public health web page: colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus
- Facebook ([facebook.com/CDPHE](https://www.facebook.com/CDPHE)) and Twitter ([@CDPHE](https://twitter.com/CDPHE))
- CDC web page [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)

Gatherings:

To limit virus transmission, meetings should be conducted via telephone or video conferences whenever possible.

Telecommuting:

Where viable, the role of telecommuting should be discussed as a tool to maintain business continuity.

Governor Polis issued an executive order under the emergency declaration limiting gatherings of people over 250 people. Colorado has taken aggressive actions to identify and isolate cases of transmission and limiting group gatherings flattens the curve of community spread to ensure the resources and facilities to treat new cases.

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About Downtown Colorado, Inc.

Established in 1982 as the Colorado Community Revitalization Association,

Downtown Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit membership organization that aims to build better communities by providing assistance to downtowns, commercial districts and town centers in Colorado. Organization members represent downtown organizations, local governments, development and improvement districts, consultants, individuals and others involved in downtown and community development.

WE ARE THE DOERS

COMMITTED TO BUILDING DOWNTOWNS THAT ARE PROSPEROUS, EQUITABLE, CREATIVE, AND WELCOMING