

# Backgrounder

WEST VANCOUVER FOUNDATION

March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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## Overview

West Vancouver Foundation has launched the **North Shore COVID-19 Coronavirus Emergency Response Fund** to support our community through the current coronavirus pandemic.

The Fund will target charities that provide front-line services to vulnerable populations who are being disproportionately affected the coronavirus.

The goal is simple - to keep the organizations providing frontline services in the areas of food security, mental & physical wellness, and challenges of isolation. The first phase of this work is intended to be a rapid response to immediate needs. As we learn more about our local needs and the changing nature of this unprecedented situation, we will adapt our process.

The Fund is open to contributions from governments, corporate partners, and individuals. We welcome donations through: [www.westvanfoundation.ca/covid19](http://www.westvanfoundation.ca/covid19)

## Background

Everyday charities across the North Shore provide essential services — touching individuals and families across all ages and cultures. The West Vancouver Vital Signs reports highlight the changing needs and areas of vulnerability in our communities. Our North Shore communities are particularly vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 given our demographics.

There are many excellent community organizations working to ensure that vulnerable and isolated members of the community are supported and safe. Last week we began reaching out to these organization to understand how we can best support their efforts. Their worlds are changing hour-by-hour. Our goal is to support their efforts as they develop and evolve.

The West Vancouver Foundation is a leader in community-based philanthropy across Vancouver's North Shore, and with \$20 million in assets is the largest in the Greater Sea-to-Sky area. Established in 1979, the Foundation provides professionally managed philanthropic services to build stronger, more caring, and inclusive communities. With the expertise and processes in place we can activate and manage this new fund ensuring grants can be evaluated and issued based on emerging community needs in a timely manner.

## Criteria and Selection Process

Funding will be provided via flexible operating grants that position charities to maintain or expand services to vulnerable populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Given the dynamic nature of this moment, the Fund intends to provide grants on a rolling basis and adapt to changing circumstances from acute immediate needs to longer term recovery. Criteria will evolve and develop as the situation unfolds.

The first phase of granting will prioritize community-based organizations that are addressing food security, mental & physical wellness, and challenges of isolation. It is important they compliment the critically important work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address urgent needs in an efficient manner.

**Applicant Requirements:**

- Provide direct response and support to those affected by COVID-19, particularly those who are most vulnerable
- Based within or serve the North Shore
- Deep roots in the community/established operations
- Have charitable status

We will proactively reach out to charities with whom we have existing relationships to assess needs, as well as invite charities to identify themselves for consideration. We are also working closely with other community response leaders to guide us.

**Additional Details**

For more information please contact the West Vancouver Foundation  
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As the consequences and recovery from this crisis will extend for months beyond the immediate phase, we ask donors to provide us the flexibility to use funds in a responsive fashion in the short, medium and possibly longer term.

The **North Shore COVID-19 Coronavirus Emergency Response Fund** is fund is operated on NO-FEE basis (ensuring 100% of funds are deployed), and grants will be issued on a flow through basis.

The West Vancouver Foundation is located on the unceded territories of Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam Nations.