North Texas Cares Collaborative Funders

The Addy Foundation
American Prosperity Fund
Anonymous (6)
Paul E. Andrews Jr. Foundation
Bank of America
The Boone Family Foundation
The Byrne Family Foundation
The Catholic Foundation
Celanese Foundation
Communities Foundation of Texas
The Dallas Foundation
Dallas Mavericks / Mavs Foundation
The Dallas Morning News Charities
DuBose Family Foundation
Embrey Family Foundation
The Hersh Foundation
Lyda Hill Philanthropies
Hoblitzelle Foundation
M.R. and Evelyn Hudson Foundation
The Gene and Jerry Jones Family Foundation
The Meadows Foundation

Meta Alice Keith Bratten Foundation
The Morris Foundation
Muse Family Foundation
North Texas Community Foundation
Oncor
The Rainwater Charitable Foundation
The Rees-Jones Foundation
Sid W. Richardson Foundation
Harold Simmons Foundation
State Fair of Texas
The Mike & Mary Terry Family Foundation
Texoma Health Foundation
Tolleson Wealth Management
Toyota Motors North America
Cooke County United Way
United Way of Denton County
United Way of Grayson County
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of Tarrant County
United Way of West Ellis County
Wingstop Charities
North Texas Cares: $63 million awarded across 1,000+ local nonprofits by 45 collaborative funders

As North Texans, we have overcome many difficult situations together over the years; natural disasters, man-made disasters, economic emergencies— but nothing quite like the health and economic emergencies of 2020 and 2021.

The idea of North Texas Cares started as a conference call between a few funders in early March 2020 to discuss the rising urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of that weekend, more than 15 local funders and foundations came together to create, launch, and lead a more formalized funder collaborative to streamline the process for nonprofits applying for COVID-19–related emergency funding.

North Texas Cares provided a single, common online grant application that was shared across the funding community, making it faster for nonprofits to broadly communicate needs. The online application was open to all 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations providing services in the North Texas area, spanning more than 24 counties and 20,000 square miles.

The initial collaborative of 15 foundations and United Ways quickly grew to more than 45 participating funders from across North Texas coming together to provide support for organizations that serve those most affected by the pandemic. Applications were submitted on a rolling basis, and each participating funder could access and review submitted grant applications and make independent funding decisions. The length of time between a submitted application and funding could be as fast as seven to 10 days, much faster than a typical foundation grant.

For the initial North Texas Cares application, funders established a list of priority areas that had a focus on equity as the foundation. The pandemic was deeply impacting and exacerbating racial disparities, and it was important that North Texas Cares funding was directed at efforts that overtly addressed this. Funding was prioritized to support efforts that addressed viral racism related to COVID-19, as well as efforts that addressed racial disparities in communities of color, focusing on areas such as access to care, food insecurity, and health inequities.

“’As frontline health care providers for the indigent, we rely, perhaps now more than ever before, on the generosity of Dallas’ strong philanthropic community. The North Texas Cares funds we received from multiple funding partners enabled us to immediately implement telehealth and afford sufficient and costly medical supplies (PPE). We were nimble and responsive, in large part because our benefactors were nimble and responsive. This partnership has proven invaluable for the health of our vulnerable communities and for our own employees.’”

Joleen Bagwell
Chief Development Officer
Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic

Los Barrios Unidos Community Clinic provides quality care to all people, creating a safe, affordable, and accessible health care experience, especially for at-risk populations, including uninsured and low-income clients. North Texas Cares grant funding was used to purchase personal protective equipment for staff, to train telehealth providers, and to offer telehealth services to clients. Over 7,000 individuals were served.
Using ongoing community needs assessment data compiled through the North Texas Cares survey and other resources, North Texas Cares partners identified and aligned on the following prioritization of needs to guide the initial grant awards:

**PRIORITY 1**
- Critically important emergency requests:
  - Access to food, access to essential health care, access to emergency assistance for vulnerable populations
- Support to allow first responders, health care professionals, and other essential workers to continue working (supplies and equipment, childcare assistance, transportation, etc.)
- Assistance for shelters and group living facilities to provide safe, healthy living conditions incorporating social distancing standards

**PRIORITY 2**
- Access to alternative sources of income
- Access to the internet and technology for distance learning, job training, etc.

**PRIORITY 3**
- Short-term operating funds for nonprofits providing essential services and support during the COVID-19 crisis (this is not to replace general revenue loss)
- Alternatives to volunteers for nonprofit staffing

Between April and July 2020, 1,480 grants totaling $42 million were awarded to over 700 area nonprofits through the North Texas Cares application process.

Each funder established their own timeline and process to evaluate and award grant applications, and grant amounts varied by funder. As this was not a pooled fund, applications submitted had the opportunity to be funded from one or more participating funders. Funders then shared and tracked funding awarded among the partners.

The initial success of North Texas Cares inspired a second phase in August 2020 that launched with 35 funders and closed in October 2020. This second round of funding was focused on supporting not only emergency needs, but also the broader needs of individuals and families due to the extended impact of the pandemic on the economy.

The second-phase application’s priority funding areas included economic security, education, health, safety and wellbeing, and social justice. Applications were considered by participating funders and continued to be funded on a rolling basis from October 2020 to March 2021.

This second phase application resulted in an additional $21 million in funding requests to 340 nonprofits.

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“The pandemic brought our nonprofit sector to its knees financially. While nonprofit leaders worked overtime to provide essential services, our charitable fund holders and private foundations needed an efficient way to understand the challenges facing our community and what they could do to help. North Texas Cares helped us align our efforts and coordinate financial support to get the job done.”

Rose Bradshaw
President and CEO
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A Community in Crisis

Nonprofits swiftly responded to the crisis by forging new partnerships and adapting programs and services to meet emergent demands.

North Texas Cares application reviewers found a resoundingly consistent narrative of increased need that went beyond just needs from clients—many nonprofits experienced significant disruptions to their ability to maintain operations.

Nonprofits saw their volunteer forces disappear and had to rely solely on staff to perform all essential duties. Nonprofits experienced a drastic reduction in donations, both monetary and in-kind goods, and many were forced to cancel or rethink fundraising events, which impacted their revenue streams. At the same time, they had to outlay unexpected expenses to pay for cleaning supplies, personal protective equipment, and technology to digitally reach clients at a distance.

While the pandemic affected our entire community, many populations experienced its effects more acutely. Immigrant communities experienced heightened levels of fear and distress due to the uncertainty of where they would get food and access to other basic needs. Seniors who previously relied on nonprofit community spaces found themselves quarantined in their homes, increasing the likelihood of challenges related to mental health, physical health, and diet. Nonprofits saw an increase in calls related to domestic and family violence, as well as a lack of safe housing options for families exiting emergency shelters.

During this challenging time, nonprofits across North Texas ramped up their services, operating hours, and staff duties to accommodate as many individuals as they could, while moving to contactless services as often as possible. Together, we were able to serve nonprofits across 24 counties like never before.

In total, over 2,000 grants were awarded to more than 1,000 unique nonprofits during the two phases of North Texas Cares, putting to work over $63 million from more than 45 different funding organizations to address community needs during an unprecedented time.

Nonprofits were faced with unprecedented challenges as we confronted the pandemic, and it was important that we did the work together. United Way was proud to co-lead this initiative to ensure that those hit hardest by this pandemic received assistance as quickly as possible. Together, we were able to amass the brainpower and person-power required to battle the inertia of circumstances—mobilizing individuals and institutions with the resources, the profile, the imagination, and demonstrated commitment to North Texas’ future to do the seemingly impossible.”

Jennifer Sampson
McDermott-Templeton President and CEO
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

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Ashley Brundage
Executive Director, Housing Stability
Senior Vice President, Community Impact
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas

“The innovation and impact driven by the North Texas Cares collaboration gives me great hope. Together, we’re amassing the brainpower and person-power required to battle the inertia of circumstances—mobilizing individuals and institutions with the resources, the profile, the imagination, and demonstrated commitment to North Texas’ future to do the seemingly impossible.”

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Putting Partnership at the Center

North Texas Cares was a success due to an extraordinary level of collaboration among North Texas funding organizations. From the initial North Texas Cares conference call that led to the launch of the online application, North Texas Cares created a place for funders across the community to come together and share information about community needs.

Participating funders included multiple United Ways, community foundations, family foundations, and corporate funders from communities that include Dallas, Fort Worth, and Denton, but also communities as far away as Denison and Sherman. Through initial weekly calls, funders could ask about applications, share ideas, receive updates on community needs, and stay informed during what was a rapidly changing situation. The regular communication raised awareness of nonprofits, communities, and areas that some funders might not have been aware of, especially outside the immediate Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. Decisions about North Texas Cares were made as a group and discussed in the weekly conference calls among participating funders, which could often include up to 100 staff representatives.

It was evident early on that the needs across the community were rapidly outpacing any other previous disaster. The impact of local business and school closings required nonprofits to rethink how services were delivered and left no community—suburban, urban, or rural—untouched.

With so many interested funders from across North Texas, the funder collaborative decided to host two opportunities for funders to participate in calls—one for those who mainly funded in the greater Dallas County area, and another for those who focused on the greater Tarrant County region.

Communities Foundation of Texas, The Dallas Foundation, and the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas hosted a weekly call that included all funders, and North Texas Community Foundation and the United Way of Tarrant County hosted a weekly call for funders mainly located in Tarrant and Denton counties.

The Dallas region was defined as Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Navarro, Rockwall, and surrounding counties east of the Tarrant/Dallas County line, while the Tarrant region was defined as Bosque, Clay, Erath, Hood, Johnson, Hill, Jack, Parker, Somervell, Tarrant, Wise, Young and surrounding counties west of the Tarrant/Dallas County line.

In the early days of the pandemic, the North Texas Cares collaborative averaged more than 90 participants on what began as weekly calls, with 35-50 funders who regularly participated in the weekly Tarrant County funder calls. The Tarrant County “collaboration within a collaboration” awarded close to $7 million in grants to the Tarrant region, supporting critical nonprofits working on the front lines to provide relief such as rental assistance, food, health care, and shelter.

"North Texas Cares provided an opportunity for Tarrant County funders to come together in a way we never had before—to share real-time information on critical needs across a range of issue areas. From food and homelessness to education, vaccines, and federal relief money, we were able to keep our funder community informed on the latest updates and collaborate to make a collective impact. The knowledge sharing regarding needs and solutions was extremely valuable. We were able to hear what other funders were doing in regard to their approach to grantmaking, their strategies, and how each organization was pivoting to address the rising needs of COVID-19."

Garrett March
Associate Director of Community Impact
North Texas Community Foundation

For many funders, North Texas Cares was the first time coming together regularly to collaborate in this way. While the North Texas Cares initial application processes have concluded, participating funders continue to meet monthly and will soon move to quarterly calls as a large partnership, including the Tarrant County group, to maintain the relationships forged and to continue to share information on community needs.
Focusing on the Community

When North Texas Cares launched in March 2020, the funders were focused on meeting the immediate emergency needs of the pandemic. This included supporting needs such as access to nutritious foods and short-term financial assistance for displaced workers, and ensuring safety for high-risk and vulnerable groups, including providing safe shelter and/or housing opportunities for persons experiencing homelessness or domestic violence.

It quickly became evident that funding priorities needed to expand to include the needs of frontline responders, as well as academic and distance learning needs, especially for low-income, low-access students who were struggling with online learning during shutdowns.

During the summer of 2020, following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the subsequent protests that erupted in communities across the U.S., North Texas Cares funders reached out to nonprofit partners to define and share the funding priorities for North Texas Cares 2.0 funding.

Based on feedback from community members, North Texas Cares funding was expanded to include a specific focus on social justice and community building.

North Texas Cares 2.0 funding priorities included the following categories:

**HEALTH**
Organizations and programs focused on providing access to health services of all kinds, including:
- Those focused on addressing disparities
- Mental health services for children and youth
- Supporting COVID testing and access to testing/tracing

**ECONOMIC SECURITY**
Organizations and programs focused on preparing people for living wage jobs in the COVID-19 environment (e.g., via rapid reemployment, upskilling or reskilling through partnerships with community colleges, schools, and/or moving to online adult learning)
- Organizations that provide supportive services for workers, such as childcare, food, or transportation
- Providing safe, stable housing for families or individuals
- Organizations that provide services to re-entry populations to assist them as they are returning to the community during this very challenging time

**EDUCATION**
- Programs working to reduce learning loss and close the racial achievement gap
- Programs focused on supporting teachers/students given current online learning challenges
- Programs addressing the digital divide
- In- and out-of-school engagement programs for children and youth
- Programs that focused on education to cultivate anti-racism
- Parent engagement programs to support learning at home

**SAFETY & WELLBEING**
- Programs focused on personal safety from violence in the home
- Programs focused on public safety in the community and eliminating violence directed at people of color and disenfranchised and marginalized populations

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**
- Programs that focus on education to cultivate anti-racism
- Community organizing and movement building
- Creative community engagement to promote equity, access, participation, and rights, including through the arts or public green spaces
- Programs that foster and build leadership for people of color within nonprofit organizations

“"We have so enjoyed being part of the North Texas Cares funding community. During these challenging times, it takes all of us together, and we appreciate the opportunity to come together to discuss challenges, share resources, and collaborate with our peers to support critical needs.”

Katie Edwards
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
President, Mesas Foundation
for the Dallas Mavericks

“The partnership during North Texas Cares was invaluable. I was elated to connect smaller, grassroots nonprofits in Southern Dallas to the process. Many of these organizations had not been on the radar to receive funds, and their tireless efforts were recognized as they continued to make a difference during the early stages of the pandemic. So often these organizations are not included, and this process was committed to being equitable and inclusive. In addition, it was awesome to listen during the weekly calls to hear the efforts of funders and the many collaborative opportunities that existed to pool resources for impact.”

Dr. Frosia’ Booker-Drew
Vice President, Community Affairs and Strategic Alliances
State Fair of Texas

**Wesley-Rankin Community Center in West Dallas**

Focus: Food, Education, Older Adults

“COVID-19 turned the simplest of tasks into complex systems. The North Texas Cares process was the complete opposite! Having a simplified submission and review process allowed us to focus on relief efforts and gain immediate funding simultaneously. Being able to offer consistency in food security, without gaps in funding, has not only been a comfort mentally for staff, but also for our senior citizens.”

Shellie Ross
Executive Director
Wesley-Rankin Community Center

Nestled in the heart of West Dallas, Wesley-Rankin Community Center (WRCC) is a 120-year-old organization that identifies and bridges gaps in education, health, and skills development by providing multigenerational programs that empower families to access their full potential. WRCC had to adjust their programming to support families and individuals in accessing food. Funding helped to support food distribution for the senior program, Casa Feliz, which saw an escalated need for nutritious food for seniors who were quarantined in their homes.

Normally, WRCC provides approximately 400–500 meals a week to West Dallas seniors, many of them diabetic with specific dietary needs. Approximately 97% of seniors in the program are reliant on WRCC’s meal service for their daily meals and primary source of nutrition. To continue meeting the need of nutritious food security, WRCC began delivering groceries weekly to seniors in need.

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Sharing Life Outreach in Mesquite

Focus: Food, Basic Needs, Financial Assistance

“During this extraordinary time of service to our community, the efficiency of the North Texas Cares application has been a game changer. Being able to complete one grant application and have it reviewed by 45+ funders saved time and alleviated some of the stress associated with serving during the pandemic. Sharing Life is deeply grateful to have received funding from multiple North Texas Cares partners, allowing us to assist thousands of first-time clients in addition to our client base who are experiencing new levels of need.”

Matthew Randazzo
President and CEO
Sharing Life Outreach

“Institutional philanthropy has not generally been able to pivot and make grants on a dime. And yet, North Texas Cares was exactly what the moment called for: A collective, innovative, and rapid response to an urgent community need. Imagine what we can accomplish together going forward if we continue to build this collaborative muscle beyond immediate crisis management and strategically partner to make North Texas a brighter and more equitable place for everyone who calls it home.”

Brittani Trusty
Director of Community Impact
The Dallas Foundation

The North Texas Cares Process

**STEP ONE**
Application
A nonprofit submitted an online application through the online application portal hosted by United Way of Metropolitan Dallas.

**STEP TWO**
Eligibility
Preliminary review for eligibility to make sure applicant was a 501(c)(3) in good standing with the IRS.

**STEP THREE**
Teams
Applications were assigned to review teams based on geography.

**STEP FOUR**
Score
Applications were reviewed and scored by at least two readers.

**STEP FIVE**
Spreadsheet
Applications added weekly to master spreadsheet including application details, reader reviews, and scores against stated funding priorities of North Texas Cares.

**STEP SIX**
Funder Review
Every funder reviewed the shared spreadsheet and made decisions through their own internal processes, guidelines, and timing.

**STEP SEVEN**
Allocations
As funders made grants, the master spreadsheet was updated so all funders could see which grants were fully funded, partially funded, or remained unfunded.

**STEP EIGHT**
Funding
Nonprofits received funding by electronic payment or as quickly as possible, which could be as fast as seven to 10 days from their application submission.

Sharing Life’s assistance programs support more than 20,000 residents across 35 ZIP codes in North Texas, providing stability for families in crisis. Services include a food pantry, clothes closet, financial assistance, financial coaching, and employment training. Before COVID-19, they were assisting a record number of clients daily, providing over 4 million pounds of food annually across Dallas, Rockwall, and Kaufman counties. They now provide 12 million pounds of food annually.

During the pandemic, they had to close their facility to the public and transition from a client choice pantry to prepackaged bags via a drive-through line in their parking lot. They continued to experience an even greater influx of families needing support services in food and financial assistance, with 20% of these families being new clients. North Texas Cares funding was used to support increased food distribution and financial assistance to their clients.
Funding Breakdown by Issue Area

A total of $63.3 million in grant awards was disbursed across five broad issue areas throughout the first and second phases of North Texas Cares. Many grants addressed more than one issue area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Area</th>
<th>Phase One</th>
<th>Phase Two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Security</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety &amp; Wellbeing</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SafeHaven of Tarrant County
Focus: Domestic Violence Support and Prevention

SafeHaven of Tarrant County works to end domestic violence through safety, support, prevention, and social change. SafeHaven provides comprehensive services at no cost to domestic violence victims, including 24-hour care, a 24-hour crisis hotline, long-term housing, and legal services. Self-isolation led to an increase in the number and severity of domestic violence cases in Tarrant County. North Texas Cares funding supported increased need for domestic violence services for 4,000+ individuals, overflow and quarantine spaces for families, and overtime and hazard pay for staff.

Meals on Wheels Denton County
Focus: Food, Older Adults

Meals on Wheels of Denton County empowers people to live as fully and independently as possible by providing nutrition, transportation, and social services to older persons, persons with disabilities, veterans, and the general public. Hot meals are now delivered daily to seniors with a wellness check-in by a caring volunteer. Meal delivery did not stop at all during the course of the pandemic, although it was limited for a period of time. Their transportation services transitioned to limit the number of riders per vehicle to ensure social distancing and to increase sanitizing of high-touch surfaces on a daily basis. North Texas Cares funding supported food distribution and transportation to critical medical appointments for hundreds of older adults.

Awards & Accolades
North Texas Cares was honored to receive the 2021 Caroline Rose Hunt Cherish the Children award from DALLAS CASA and to be a D Magazine Best of Big D Front Line Heroes “Community” Honoree.

“North Texas Cares is just one more example of the power of collaboration and partnership between funders in our community. From private to family to community to corporate—we all have the same overarching goal—to make North Texas and North Texans safer, stronger, and more secure.”

Dena L. Jackson
Chief Operating Officer
Texas Women’s Foundation

“North Texas Cares is just one more example of the power of collaboration and partnership between funders in our community. From private to family to community to corporate—we all have the same overarching goal—to make North Texas and North Texans safer, stronger, and more secure.”

Dallas CASA
“North Texas Cares is one of the most innovative and important initiatives created during the pandemic. Thanks to its collaborative and streamlined process, The Rosewood Corporation was able to strategically deploy resources where and when they were urgently needed, during both the pandemic and the February ice storm. North Texas Cares is truly making a difference in our communities.”

Lynn Fisher
Director of Corporate Giving
The Rosewood Corporation

“As well as getting much-needed dollars out the door quickly and efficiently, North Texas Cares was a great way for donor-advised fund holders to be part of a funder collaborative. I and other fund holders benefited from the expertise and proposal vetting experience of the foundation funders in the collaborative. Having an ongoing list of requests and amounts needed and amounts already funded helps all funders, but is especially helpful for fund holders who are not receiving proposals from nonprofits directly. I appreciate the creators of the effort and all the extra work done to help our community in a crisis.”

Sarah McCune Losinge
McCune Charitable Foundation

North Texas Cares was featured in a number of local and national publications. Participating funders were invited to present at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s 2020 Building Resilience Through Private-Public Partnerships (PPP) Conference, as well as the Grantmakers for Effective Organizations (GEO) 2021 Learning Conference, where they shared the collaboration, lessons learned, and how funders in North Texas came together so quickly.

Headline Highlights:

The Wall Street Journal
How the Coronavirus Pandemic Is Changing Philanthropy
From mutual-aid networks to emergency-response funds, communities and nonprofits have sped up efforts to get help to where it’s needed most

The Dallas Business Journal
North Texas Cares: How a unique partnership has rapidly given over $32M to local nonprofits for COVID-19 relief

Forbes
Building A New Model For Greater Change And Impact

The Chronicle of Philanthropy
Foundations Adopt Policies to Move More Money Faster, and With Fewer Restrictions

The Dallas Morning News
Foundations unite to save embattled North Texas nonprofits
An unprecedented coalition of two dozen funders says it will move quickly to get them money.

“North Texas Cares has been an amazing and inspiring experience. We are so grateful for each funder that made the decision to join the collaboration and engage in supporting our nonprofit partners during this unprecedented and challenging time. The relationships forged between funders over the past year continues, and we look forward to further opportunities to work together in support of the community we all care so much about.”

Wende Burton
Senior Director of Community Philanthropy
Communities Foundation of Texas

“The ability to submit one application reduced my anxiety. It alleviated the burden of multiple applications, allowing us to focus on serving those affected by the pandemic. For major funders to work together was a win for North Texas nonprofits. The application was simple, and the funding turnaround expedient. When we first received funding from United Way, I assumed that funding was from the collective group and that was all the funding we would receive; but it wasn’t, it turned into a beautiful domino effect! Within two weeks we received additional funding awards from the Hillcrest Foundation, The Dallas Foundation, and Communities Foundation of Texas.”

Felicia Frazier
Founder and Executive Director
The MINT Foundation

The MINT Foundation empowers children and families to be self-sustaining through education, training, mentoring, and service. They provide after-school learning, a STEAM summer camp, a boxing/mentoring program for youth with behavioral challenges, and a food pantry.

In the beginning of the pandemic, the MINT Foundation saw an increase in families coming to their food pantry and asking for financial assistance due to job loss. The MINT Foundation transitioned their meal programs for older adults to a home delivery system that provided enough food for five days at a time. They also added a financial assistance component when families arrived at the pantry seeking food. North Texas Cares funding supported their food and financial assistance programs, and they served more than 400 clients weekly across their programs.
“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” — Helen Keller