



## Caring in a Crisis: Our COVID-19 Response

When the coronavirus struck our community, the power of the Life Science Cares network was activated overnight. We immediately reached out to our nonprofit partners to determine their needs. In six weeks, our sector donated nearly \$2 million to LSC, which we then dispersed to 43 organizations on the front lines of protecting our most vulnerable neighbors.

Our COVID-19 Response effort provided not only lifesaving financial support to local nonprofits but also allowed us to help create a problem-solving network for partners that sourced everything from PPE and cleaning supplies to laptops and Wi-Fi hubs. We're proud of the impact we made together:

- **Raised \$1.8M of emergency funds** from 600 individuals and companies
- **Created a streamlined grant process** (one-page application) to ensure nonprofits could request funds with minimal administrative burden
- **Provided grants to 43 organizations** to assist with the unexpected costs of providing services for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis and the associated economic shut down
- **Held regular calls**, as frequently as once-a-week, with partner organizations to help understand their needs, link them with companies wanting to help, and collectively brainstorm around the issues that arose during the pandemic
- **Shifted our volunteer operations** to virtual, collaborative settings in order to continue providing meaningful support to nonprofits while giving employees an opportunity to safely lend a hand



In our rush to return to normal, as hope for the pandemic's end peers over the horizon, it's important to appreciate the ways in which "normal" wasn't working for far too many of our neighbors. The pandemic opened our eyes to how people experiencing poverty suffer disproportionately and how our neighbors of color are more at risk. **That's why Life Science Cares is investing in equity-focused initiatives to ensure a recovery that works for everyone:**

- We've joined The Boston Foundation as supporters of the [Chelsea 2021](#) initiative to ensure that this city, rich with a vibrant immigrant culture, can bounce back. Food insecurity and vaccine access have been problems for our neighbors and we're sending help.
- LSC is also funding the [We Got Us Empowerment Project](#), a Boston-based collective of Black community members, health care professionals, students, and allies committed to educating our community about medical racism, COVID, and the vaccine. Our partnership with [GOTVax](#), which uses a campaign and canvas strategy to reach residents in Roxbury, East Boston and other hard-hit communities, will support neighborhood-based vaccination clinics.
- Most recently, Life Science Cares has joined the public-private partnership [Cambridge RISE](#), a new Guaranteed Income Pilot Initiative providing much-needed support for Cambridge's most vulnerable residents and supporting national research around guaranteed income. The 18 month pilot will support 120 single caretaker households, both to increase financial stability and to understand the long-term impacts a guaranteed income has on local and national economic policy.