Center for Disaster Philanthropy

The when, where and how of informed disaster giving

CDP Webinar Responses and Resources

COVID-19: Grantmaking to Support Children and Older Adults

It is difficult to get to all questions posed during the webinar, but it is important to us that we provide responses and share resources. Similar questions are grouped together, however questions answered by the panelists are not included here but can be accessed in the recording of the webinar. Presentation slides and recordings are available on our website, generally within 48 hours of the webinar.

Q.1) There were a couple questions about support/caregiver burnout prevention for parents (particularly special needs parents) and for caregivers of adults, including homebound older adults. A similar question asked about support for the individuals needing care. Since resources for individuals and their caregivers often overlap, we have combined them in one section.

Answer: Here are several resources:

- <u>Caregiver Action Network</u> A range of different tools and tips.
- Family Caregiver Alliance More from the National Center on Caregiving.
- Child Care Aware: Tips for Helping Families Support Children's Emotions.
- Harvard Business Review: Balancing Work and Elder Care.
- Shine365: Caregiver Burnout During COVID-19.
- Vitas: Caregiving During COVID-19: Be Well With These 6 Tips.
- Iona: Avoid Caregiver Burnout During COVID-19.
- National Council on Aging: <u>Self-care During the COVID-19 Outbreak.</u>
- American Psychological Association: Psychologists Emphasize More Self-care for Older Adults.
- Prevention Lane: Self-care and Older Adults.

Here are more resources from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP):

- Caregiving Burnout: Steps for Coping With Stress.
- Coronavirus' Impact on Gen X Caregivers.
- How Caregivers Can Control Their Coronavirus Stress.
- Practical Tips for Caregivers Concerned About COVID-19.
- Lessons From Military Caregivers Amid Coronavirus.

Q.2) Voting: Can you give more specificity on how older adults can get better information about non-face voting and state/local options? Is there a national campaign that is reaching each state?

Answer: As Elaine Ryan said in the webinar, the AARP has advanced three key initiatives during their voting advocacy:

- ✓ Advocated to move the primary election dates in multiple states to ensure access to voting; will continue this effort for the general election.
- ✓ Advocated in more than half the states to revise state election laws to allow mail-in and noexcuse absentee ballots, and simplify laws that require witnesses for absentee ballots.
- ✓ Expanded education and outreach on how to request absentee ballots and how to complete and return them.

AARP has chapters in states across the country. Each state chapter is carrying out advocacy based on the status and needs of the state. See info below on state-level campaigns:

• Government and Elections

- Will the Coronavirus Affect the 50-Plus Vote
- Will Older Adults Decide the 2020 Election?
- Information from a variety of state-level campaigns
- Example of AARP Delaware's state-level organizing

Q.3) What are you hearing about children with disabilities and how they might be disproportionately impacted during this time?

Answer: This is a <u>definite concern</u>. For some students, their supports are school-based and losing that support or having a reduction in services is very challenging. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has a specific focus on children with disabilities and they outline a number of <u>COVID-19</u> resources. Here are some other links that may help:

- Better Care Network: <u>Children With Disabilities and COVID-19</u>.
- Global Partnership for Education: <u>An Inclusive Response to COVID-19: Education for Children With Disabilities</u>
- Kids Health: Coronavirus (COVID-19): Caring for Kids With Special Health Needs
- The New York Times: As the Country Opens Up Children With Disabilities are Getting Left Behind

Q.4) Does child care include programs for children with special needs and/or children with disabilities?

Answer: Child Care Aware of America supports the inclusion of children with disabilities or special needs in child care systems. Please see their resource: <u>Building Inclusive Child Care Systems.</u>

Q.5) Where does "new" government money come from to support these needed interventions when nearly every jurisdiction, from city all the way up to federal, are projecting massive tax revenue losses for the next several years?

Answer: A question for the economists, this is something that can be addressed by funding the full disaster life cycle. An initial increased investment in prevention and mitigation efforts results in saved lives and resources in the long-term. CDP is also encouraging funders to increase their five percent contributions and asking high-wealth donors to increase spending from their donor-advised funds. Some are calling for changes to taxes. For example, taxes on unearned income (investments) are lower than taxes on earned income (salaries and wages). As a result, in 2018, America's 607 billionaires paid 23 percent of their income in taxes, while average Americans paid 28 percent.

Q.6) Is AARP involved in contact tracing in any states at this time?

Answer: AARP has some information posted about contact tracing, but we don't see any reference to their involvement. However, the National Council on Aging <u>is seeking COVID-19 contact tracing employers.</u>

Q.7) Seems like the pandemic is a way for philanthropy to "re-invent" their strategies based on the new reality you described. Any advice on how to start that conversation with governance boards?

Answer: The issue of reinventing strategies has been discussed in some of the other CDP webinars including Making Effective Rapid Response Grants and Place-based Grantmakers and Investing in Local Communities.

Q.8) Older adults are facing the double whammy of being unemployed due to the economic downturn but also possibly not being able to go back to the office due to COVID-19 health risks to those over 65. What are some concrete steps that we can take to ensure older adults retain and have access to jobs? Answer: One thing that has been confirmed throughout COVID-19 is that place-based employment may not be as critical as once thought. Many companies and organizations have found that their employees

are equally or more effective working from home and plan to expand their policies. These new policies support older adults along with working parents, people with disabilities, people with long commutes and many others. The Economic Policy Institute published <u>A Coronavirus Recovery: How To Ensure Older Workers Fully Participate</u> that outlines several policy actions.