



YANCEY ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

Yancey County Establishes COVID-19 Response Fund to Help Address Food Insecurity During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Funds will be Used to Aid the Most Vulnerable People Throughout the County

For Immediate Release
23 March 2020

Yancey County Government in partnership with the Yancey Advancement Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Community Development Non-Profit affiliated with the Yancey County Economic Development Commission, today announced the establishment of the “Yancey County COVID-19 Response Fund” to help non-profits in our county who work to address hunger and food insecurity as they support communities impacted by the pandemic. The fund will assist our important community non-profits to secure the resources they need to serve the most vulnerable members of the community during this difficult time.

While the media has reported greater at-risk factors for COVID-19 among the general population, such as age and pre-existing health conditions, many may not realize food-insecure households are likely more susceptible to the virus. This is believed to be due to lesser access to adequate health care, lower resistance or compromised immune systems, stigma or bias, or lack of information about proper prevention and care.

In addition, school closures, job disruptions, lack of paid sick leave and the coronavirus’ disproportionate impact on adults age 60 and older and low-income families further contribute to the demands placed on our food system and the non-profits working to meet those needs here in Yancey County.

“With this joint effort our first priority are the individuals, families and seniors who rely on our local non-profits for essential assistance day in and day out putting food on the table,” said Yancey County Manager Lynn Austin and Yancey EDC Director Jamie McMahan in a joint statement. “Our community non-profits are always there to help throughout the year and in times of disaster. This fund will advance their ability to

respond efficiently and effectively in their communities so that food is not added to the list of worries for families during this pandemic” added Austin and McMahan, “We cannot do it alone.”

This fund will be administered by the Yancey Advancement Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit established by the Yancey County Economic Development Commission to promote community development initiatives.

All donations made to the Yancey County Covid-19 Response Fund are 100% tax deductible and 100% of all donations will be spent to combat the worsening challenge of hunger and food insecurity during this difficult time.

All individuals or businesses who wish to partner in this effort may contribute to the fund in the following ways:

- By mailing a check made payable to the Yancey Advancement Foundation, Inc. to PO Box 246, Burnsville, NC 28714 with “COVID-19 Response Fund” noted on the memo line of the check
- By contributing online by accessing the donation button which can be found on the Yancey County Government website at www.yanceycountync.gov
- By contributing online using the following link in your computer’s web browser https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=VEH368TLU3H5Y&source=url

For further information about the fund feel free to contact Yancey County Manager Lynn Austin at (828) 682-3971 or via email at Lynn.Austin@yanceycountync.gov or Jamie McMahan, Yancey EDC Director via phone at (828) 682-7722 or via email at Jamie.McMahan@yanceycountync.gov.

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