



## **Boston mayor distributes additional \$3 million to those providing essential services to front line workers**



[File photo](#)  
[Brynne Connolly](#)

BOSTON (WHDH) - Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced Monday that an additional \$3 million will be distributed to a number of organizations providing essential services to frontline workers from the city's resiliency fund.

The money will go to support 29 organizations to expand their capacity or adjust their service model to meet the immediate needs of Boston residents during this public health emergency, targeting \$1.8 million towards access to food and other basic needs and \$1.2 million towards Boston's front-line workers and health care systems.

The grants range in size and will be awarded to the following organizations:

- [\*\*Black Economic Justice Institute\*\*](#) has already distributed \$20,000 in grocery gift cards to those in need. This grant will help continue that work.
- [\*\*Black Men’s Engagement Network Foundation\*\*](#) has helped facilitate support for hundreds of people in Dorchester through coordinating phone banking efforts. This grant will be used to help deliver food, gas cards, and gift cards to additional residents in need.
- [\*\*Boston Cares\*\*](#) mobilizes and trains individual and corporate volunteers who strengthen communities and improve the lives of people in need. This grant will support volunteer recruitment and management for food access and distribution at Boston Public Schools meal sites.
- **Boston Immigrants COVID-19 Collaborative** brings together 11 immigrant-serving organizations to provide direct emergency relief and culturally competent food to over 1,200 families. Partners include: [Rian Immigrant Center](#) (fiscal sponsor), [Agencia ALPHA](#), [Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center](#), [Brazilian Worker Center](#), [Centro Presente](#), [Immigrant Family Services Institute](#), [Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative](#), [Center for Collaborative Education](#) (BINcA), [Caribbean Youth Club](#), [Sociedad Latina](#), and [ICNA Relief](#).
- [\*\*Bridge Over Troubled Waters\*\*](#) is expanding capacity to effectively and safely provide food, shelter, housing, physical and mental health care, and safety to individuals experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- [\*\*Building Audacity\*\*](#) delivers breakfasts and lunches to Boston residents each week. This grant will help provide additional groceries and meals for families in need.
- **Cape Verdean Association of Boston** provides food from local restaurants, toiletries and essential needs to low-income immigrant families and seniors. This grant will help continue that work.
- [\*\*Casa Myrna\*\*](#) provides direct support for food, medical supplies, and emergency housing for survivors of domestic violence, and members of their household. Domestic violence survivors forced to remain with abusers due to the virus are at increased risk and need additional supports.
- [\*\*Catholic Charities of Boston\*\*](#) has two food pantries that serve 180 to 200 people daily and provide food bags for partners to distribute to clients. This grant will help provide food, emergency essential supplies and food pantry program supplies.
- [\*\*Catie’s Closet\*\*](#) provides access to basic necessities, such as toiletries and feminine products, to students and families in collaboration with Boston Public Schools’ meal sites.
- [\*\*Chinese Progressive Association\*\*](#) will work with partners to staff City meal sites and deliver food straight to the homes of families in need. Staffing efforts will be focused on

residents who have been laid off because of COVID-19 and who represent the diverse languages and cultures of Boston. In addition, this grant will support the Asian Community Relief Fund, launched in partnership with the Asian Community Development Corporation, AAARW, GBLS Asian Outreach Unit and VietAID.

- [City Mission](#) will utilize this grant to increase food security for low-income single mothers in Boston through the purchase of gift cards.
- [CommonWealth Kitchen](#) will meet the growing need for prepared foods for seniors, low-income families, and other frontline workers by engaging member businesses to help with meal production and distribution.
- [Dominican Development Center](#) will use this grant to provide essential needs to domestic workers and immigrant mothers in need of food and other supplies.
- [East Boston Neighborhood Health Center](#) provides COVID-19 testing services for first responders at a drive-through clinic at Suffolk Downs in East Boston, in coordination with the City, State and EMS agencies. This grant will support the staffing and supplies needed to operate the testing site.
- **Emergency Child Care Program Relief ([Boston Opportunity Agenda](#))** will support current family child care and center-based emergency child care providers for essential workers. This grant will help close the gap between state funding and operational costs to ensure the continuity of emergency child care operations through May 4th. Partners include: 20 family child care programs, 9 YMCA programs, [Whittier Street Health Center](#), Nurtury and Wee Care JP.
- **EMS Wellness Screening Automated Texting Tool ([LivableStreets Alliance](#))** will allow central EMS staff to connect, interact with and monitor the health of front-line EMS staff through a new mobile automated texting tool.
- [Elizabeth Stone House](#) will provide food, medicine and hygiene products to low-income and/or homeless domestic violence survivors, who are unable to openly travel to established food pick-up sites.
- [Heading Home](#) currently serves over 500 households through shelter and housing programs. This grant will provide food, water, baby formula and the logistics support needed to deliver to Heading Home's Boston families.
- [International Institute of New England](#) will provide Boston refugees, unaccompanied minors, and undocumented immigrants in their care with emergency food.
- [John F. Kennedy Family Service Center](#) will provide low-income families and seniors in Charlestown with additional needed emergency food relief.

- [\*\*Lovin' Spoonfuls\*\*](#) rescues food from grocery stores and produce wholesalers and delivers it directly to over 60 Boston-based nonprofit partners each week. This grant will rescue approximately 120,000 lbs of food, creating more than 96,000 meals over the next month.
- [\*\*Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children\*\*](#) is continuing to deliver services via telehealth to its clients, including teen parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and children with behavioral health needs. This grant will support the purchase of food, diapers, formula, and medicine.
- [\*\*Off Their Plate\*\*](#) collaborates with Boston restaurant owners to restore food industry jobs while safely preparing and delivering meals to Boston hospitals and health care facilities.
- [\*\*Smart from the Start\*\*](#) provides home deliveries of food and supplies and are currently delivering over 300 meals per week. This grant will help provide additional home deliveries of food and emergency care packages.
- [\*\*Vietnamese American Initiative for Development \(VietAID\)\*\*](#) provides meal packages and hot meal delivery to older adults and families in Dorchester. This grant will help expand the capacity to additional households in need.
- [\*\*Women's Lunch Place\*\*](#) will provide boxed breakfast and lunch for take-out, COVID-19 educational materials, toiletries, and feminine products for women experiencing homelessness.
- [\*\*WORK Inc.\*\*](#) operates a Family Support Center for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. This grant will support the delivery of food, toiletries and supplies to the families at the center.
- [\*\*YMCA of Greater Boston\*\*](#) strives to meet the needs of low-income Boston families through the activation of food sites and emergency child care centers throughout the city. This grant will support additional staffing costs, food supplies, and meal delivery.

Since its formation, the Fund has raised more than \$22 million from over 2,800 individual donors.

“During this stressful time, people should not have to worry about accessing food and meeting their basic needs, and organizations should not have to worry about their ability to keep serving their communities. I am incredibly proud and thankful for everyone’s generosity as we come together to support one another,” Walsh said in a statement.

The fund will continue [accepting donations](#) from individuals, organizations and philanthropic partners who wish to contribute and offer their support, and 100 percent of donations will be awarded to local organizations, with the majority of future grants to be made throughout April and May.

The fund has already distributed \$5.4 million.