








Accomplishments to Date

March – May, 2020

- Assembled and sustained a collaborative group of over 79 nonprofit, philanthropic, and governmental partners across five counties in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Weekly calls draw over 80 participants, and our roster includes more than 130 individuals.
- With support from Forward Through Ferguson and several Washington University and Saint Louis University students and faculty, reviewed practices in other cities further along in their pandemic response. Surveyed over 130 St. Louis area nonprofit service providers to determine needs of their clients and their organizations in the initial weeks of the COVID-19 crisis, which pointed to basic needs as an area of focus and the need for funding to deploy resources.
- Informed the distribution of immediate funds by the COVID-19 Regional Response Fund housed at the St. Louis Community Foundation to organizations active in providing basic needs and other vital services throughout the region.
- Facilitated renewed communication by convening key stakeholders who support the unhoused population in the region. With a particular focus on addressing the medical and behavioral health needs of individuals in encampments, temporary and traditional shelters, and quarantine and isolation, brought new partners (Washington University and BJC trauma surgery and infectious disease physician experts) to existing efforts. Clarified the process flow for securing shelter, medical and behavioral health, and other supports for the unhoused.
- Invested in the behavioral health telehealth infrastructure at 11 shelters and alternate care locations within the City of St. Louis, provided hardware, streamed capability, and built a navigation protocol to connect clients into services in partnership with local behavioral health partners.
- Connected RRT partners with consultants at Slalom to create NeedFeed, which is an online tool that allows organizations to post needs for materials like diapers and toilet paper and exchange with other users of the platform to get those needs met.



-  In partnership with the Regional Response Fund and the United Way (both RRT members), launched the Homebound Initiative to provide dedicated services to older adults and individuals with disabilities who are unable to leave their homes to access basic needs such as food, rent and utility assistance, medication and personal care items. Continue to provide coordination support for this effort in partnership with fourteen provider organizations across the region.
-  Convened school districts, libraries, and food-related nonprofits (RRT members Operation Food Search and St. Louis Area Foodbank) to understand gaps in the system of delivery for children and their families. Fielded two surveys in partnership with RRT member EdPlus to determine which school districts were providing food and collected best practices for safe distribution. Collaborated with RRT member St. Louis County Library to identify opportunities to build on existing food distribution at library sites. Working with partners, identified a viable strategy to expand capacity to serve entire families that is now being funded by St. Louis County CARES Act dollars. Also worked with RRT member PrepareSTL to leverage these food distributions to offer PPE directly to families.
-  Led by RRT member, St. Louis County Library, surveyed over 40 schools and districts across five counties to understand technology needs for students expected to access remote learning, revealing a need for over 30,000 mobile hotspots and more than 30,000 tablets. Worked with Nine Network and Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to explore on-air programming that is now available to students through “Teaching in Room Nine.”
-  In partnership with PrepareSTL, established a coordinating group for various efforts to source and distribute PPE to vulnerable providers and communities. Fielded an ongoing survey of organizations working in frontline capacities to determine their need for PPE. Identified as a centralized regional hub for data and prioritization; communications and education; sourcing and supply chain; funding and in-kind donations; assembly, distribution, and storage; and advocacy. Allocated PPE from St. Louis County for distribution and informed Regional Response Fund’s allocation of \$250,000 for the purchase of cloth masks for vulnerable community members through PrepareSTL. Surveyed more than 300 organizations to assess needs and prioritization of PPE.
-  Based upon analysis and recommendations of Dr. Patrick Fowler and his colleagues at Washington University, informed CARES Act decision makers in the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County regarding effective strategies for homelessness prevention. Convened key stakeholders who will be necessary for the implementation of such a strategy, including several Regional Response Team members.



- Through partnerships with United 4 Children and a number of Early Childhood Education (ECE) Center Leaders, developed a mini-grant process that provided 73 grants of \$500 to small ECE programs in both MO and IL while also helping connect these essential businesses to cleaning and safety supplies. Connected ECE programs to Payroll Protection Plan loan support via Justine Petersen and IFF, small business loans and grants through the Economic Development Partnership as well as technical assistance on safe reopening in alignment with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state and local orders.