

Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)

May 10, 2020 – Weekly Update

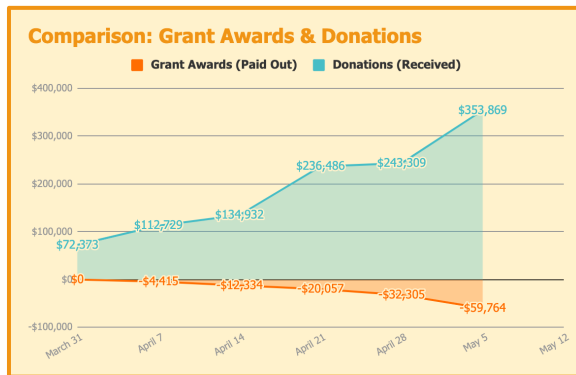


CERF ETHOS

Our goal is for residents to be able to **stay in their homes** and to maintain access to utility service that enables **students to be connected to school** to participate in distance learning and enables **all residents to be connected to food resources** and other necessities during this crisis.



FUNDRAISING – \$357,174 as of May 10, 2020



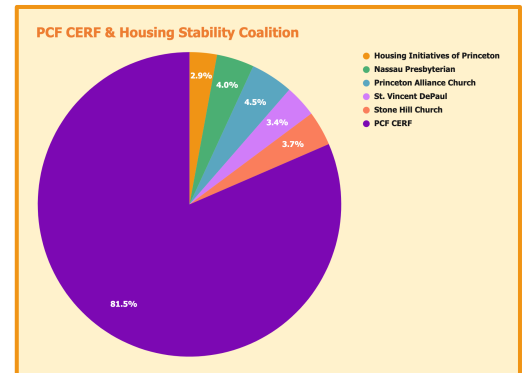
Thank you to all who have given, and who continue to give, so that we may help residents stay in their homes and remain connected to community resources. The CERF is supported in part with grants from the **Princeton University Relief Fund** and the **Covid-19 Relief & Recovery Fund of Princeton Area Community Foundation**. We are grateful to the University, to PACF, and to the over **730 donors** who have contributed.

We meet each Tuesday with members of the **Housing Stability Coalition** who remain dedicated to our mission and who have underwritten almost 20% of all



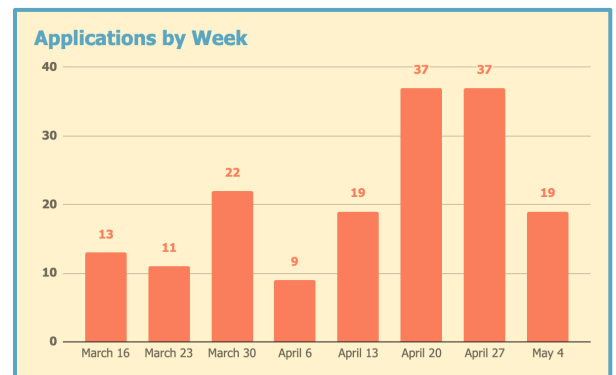
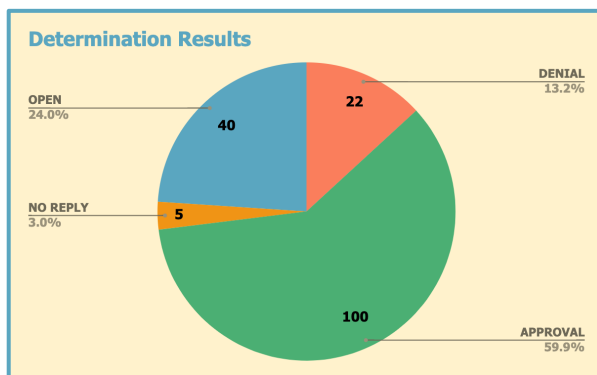
applicant awards. As a group as of May 5th, **the HSC has contributed over \$13,500 in addition to the almost \$60,000 awarded by CERF**. Our reach would be significantly reduced without the ongoing support from the HSC.

A comparison of grant awards and donations received is above. In absence of knowing the duration of quarantine, we are unable to do any meaningful projections with regard to longevity of the CERF.



APPLICATIONS – 167

We reached a milestone this week and it felt pretty great: **we have been able to help 100 households stay sheltered and connected!** We have received 167 total applications, 30 of which are renewal applications. The **current average award** per application rose again this week, it is **now at \$824.14**. At this award level and with our current funding, we will be able to help approximately 430 people or times.



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REASONS TO H.O.P.E. (Help One Person Everyday)

In celebration of **Mother's Day**, we want to acknowledge all of the moms who have become teachers, barbers, coaches, tutors, referees, guidance counselors and all of the other jobs they now do during the pandemic. While perhaps not "essential workers" by definition, they are most definitely essential to each child they support. We know that you are all helping at least one person every day and we are grateful to you all!



PROCESS

Applicants submit a request through the municipality's privacy-compliant system or an intake coordinator completes the request with the applicant over the phone. The initial review is conducted by the Director of Human Services who ensures that: the applicant is a resident of Princeton; the request is COVID-related; and the applicant's income falls under the COAH region 4 income limit for family size. If those 3 criteria are met, Human Services assigns the application to one of the case managers who comprise the **Steering Committee**. **The case managers are all volunteer social service professionals.**



The assigned case manager conducts an intake interview, collects any outstanding documentation, and then uses the CERF determination rubric to assess the application. Guidance and supervision for intakes is provided by the Director of Human Services and the President of Princeton Children's Fund (PCF). For all applications, PCF contacts the landlord to ask if they are willing to share in the effort to keep tenants housed by forgiving a portion of the rent. Landlords who agree send a sharing letter to PCF.



The Steering Committee meets on Zoom (Mondays and Thursdays) and discusses determination recommendations. Cases that are approved by the Steering Committee are then presented to the Housing Stability Coalition where, upon approval, the HSC contributes 30% of the applicant's rental request.

For approved applications, PCF receives Housing Stability Coalition checks, adds a PCF check for the remaining 70% of rent and sends payment to the landlord. PCF also contacts the utilities, monthly cell plan, etc. to make payments. Princeton Human Services sends the determination response letter to the applicant and includes details of the landlord sharing (where applicable) along with check numbers and dates from the HSC and CERF rent payments, as well as utility payment confirmation numbers for applicants to retain in their records.



CERF TEAM

Intake Coordinators – this team answers the Human Services phone number, returns messages, and helps potential applicants navigate the application process.

- Kimberly Figueroa-Martinez* – Human Services
- Sindy Sandoval* – Corner House
- Community leaders
- Neighborhood captains



Steering Committee – in addition to processing intakes, members check to see if applicants have access to reliable sources of food and refer them to available resources when appropriate.

- Zoe D'Eugenio-Pinel* – YMCA
- Andrea Dinan* – Princeton High School
- Jordan Goodwin – Princeton Community Village
- Sharon Hurley – PSRC
- Diane Paulsell* – Solidaridad Princeton
- Nicole Paulucci/Katherine Cardona* – PRD
- Trinidad Rodriguez* – JW Middle School
- Angie Vargas*/Cecilia Avila* – Arm in Arm

* = dual-language speaker

