

**John M. Scott Health Care Trust Distributes Additional \$55,000
To Cover COVID-19 Costs for Nonprofits and McLean County Residents**

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. – Last week, the John M. Scott Health Care Commission distributed an additional \$55,000 from budget reserves to ten McLean County nonprofit organizations in response to COVID-19. The one-time COVID-19 block grants were paid in a lump sum with previously awarded underlying grants for FY21 that support the health and well-being of McLean County residents below 185% FPL. Most nonprofits are considered “essential” per Executive Order 2020-08, continuing to operate throughout the stay-at-home order while also losing revenue due to cancelled fundraisers and fewer billable services, and facing increased costs resulting from sterilization, technology, and other unbudgeted expenses. Prior to issuing the COVID grants, the Commission surveyed all twenty of the organizations in its grant portfolio to assess the impact of COVID. Eligible expenses for the John M. Scott COVID-19 grants include:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) costs for staff and clients
- Cleaning and sanitizing costs at facilities and residences
- Food and meals for people that have trouble getting it themselves
- Rent and utility assistance to avoid eviction or shut-off, and/or
- Other needs that evolve as this public health crisis persists, within underlying eligibility requirements.

John M. Scott COVID-19 grants included:

1. Center for Youth and Family Solutions: \$7,150 for PPE, food, and utility support for clients
2. Faith in Action: \$1,000 for PPE shipping costs, medical transportation, and trips to food banks
3. INtegrity Counseling: \$5,000 to scale telehealth and electronic medical records and offset lost funds
4. Marcfirst: \$5,850 for PPE, food, and cleaning and other supplies for essential staff still working in residential facilities, plus reallocating their underlying grant for early intervention for Medicaid population
5. Mid Central Community Action: \$10,000 for housing stability and basic needs for populations that aren't eligible for federal funding streams, plus re-allocating underlying grant to support Mayor's Manor
6. Project Oz: \$6,000 for increased requests related to housing stability for young adults
7. The Baby Fold: \$5,000 for care kits for children and families in the foster care program
8. West Bloomington Revitalization Project: \$2,500 for grocery gift cards and other basic/housing needs for neighborhood residents in excess of previously budgeted funds
9. Youthbuild McLean County: \$500 for internet hot spots for young adult students to ensure access to education and mental health counseling while at home;
10. YWCA McLean County: \$12,000 for emergency childcare center deep cleaning, supplies, and increased costs resulting from stay at home order.

In making these awards, the Commission coordinated closely with the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation (IPCF). Earlier this spring, IPCF issued a call for proposals for COVID-19 grants and received more than \$511,000 in request from 63 agencies across their 4-country region. IPCF staff sent the Commission the proposals it received from McLean County organizations that already receive John M Scott Health Care Commission grants. By coordinating in this way, the Commission funded \$55,000 of the requests sent to IPCF without requiring the applicants to apply to both entities, creating administrative efficiencies for all parties and stretching local dollars further during a critical time of need. IPCF then awarded more than \$80,000 in funding to an additional 32 agencies throughout the region. By working together, the John M. Scott Commission and IPCF were able to fund 67% of applications through a single application process. Holly Ambuehl, Commission Chair, said “I am grateful to the staff and volunteers at IPCF, my fellow Commissioners, and the Trustee for working together to distribute funds so rapidly to some of our essential local nonprofit employers. These grant recipients were already alongside local families before the storm even began. The grant recipients are trusted places in our neighborhoods. By channeling COVID relief through them, the entire community will benefit as they are positioned to rapidly adjust in real time as needs continue to evolve over the next few months.” The Trustee, Bloomington City Council, unanimously approved the awards on May 26, 2020.

The John M. Scott Commission is comprised of volunteers with expertise in grants management, medical care, serving to the underserved, and financial management. One Commission member must represent Second Presbyterian Church. The Commission serves as a trusted advisor to the Trustee. More information about Judge John M. Scott and his wife Ann Perry is available at <https://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/john-m-scott>. Information about

the John M. Scott Health Care Commission, including history, by-laws, members, minutes, and other information is available at <https://www.cityblm.org/government/departments/john-m-scott-health-commission>.

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