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COMMUNITY FUND FOR WELLESLEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New COVID-19 Relief Fund Grants Support Voter Education and COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts

February 2, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) – The ongoing Coronavirus pandemic continues to bring challenges to the Wellesley community in the new year. In its first round of funding for 2021, grants from the [Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) will support two key projects that directly impact residents – educating voters about Wellesley’s annual election on March 2 and assisting residents through all phases of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout.

The COVID-19 Relief Fund was established in April 2020 to help meet unprecedented needs in our community caused by COVID-19. In the past year, the Fund has awarded nearly \$117,000 to local non-profits and Town of Wellesley departments for programs and activities supporting our at-risk and most vulnerable residents, helping struggling restaurants and businesses, providing critical PPE to keep our community safe, and more.

Projects developed by the current grant recipients will benefit our entire community.

- **League of Women Voters of Wellesley election education campaign** - Money awarded to [the League](#) will support outreach to all voters with information to help them make informed choices when casting ballots for the Annual Town Election on March 2, 2021. This year, the League is hosting a virtual Meet the Candidates Night on February 11 and mailing a postcard to all residents to make sure they’re aware of important dates leading up to the election and familiar with the many changes to elections resulting from COVID-19.
- **Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Efforts** – Health officials have committed to vaccinating residents through Phase Three of the State rollout. Money awarded to the Health Department will help with planning and logistics for community vaccine clinics. Right now **no local clinic dates are scheduled in Wellesley**, but the department wants to be ready when the State increases the vaccine allotment to local boards of health.

For now, staff is working closely with the [Council on Aging](#) to help seniors (75+) register at sites currently offering the vaccine. “We know the current process is complicated and can be overwhelming for residents. We have staff members answering the phones and more than 30 volunteers guiding residents through online scheduling steps,” said Heather Munroe, COA Director. If you’re a Wellesley resident now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, call the COA at 781-235-3961 for assistance.

Show Your Support

The Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund is a partnership between the Community Fund for Wellesley, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, a tax exempt 501(c)3 organization, and the

Wellesley Select Board. One hundred percent of donations are returned to the community and directly benefit all residents. To give to the Wellesley COVID-19 Relief Fund or learn more, please visit: www.CFFW-COVID.org

Up-to-date information on the COVID-19 Relief Fund and photos of the grant recipients and programs are regularly shared on the [Town of Wellesley website](#) and on the Community Fund for Wellesley's Facebook page [@CFFWellesley](#).

About the Community Fund for Wellesley

The mission of the Community Fund for Wellesley is to promote the common good and to benefit all residents of our Town. The Fund serves as a permanent source of funding to foster innovation and collaboration in support of community needs and opportunities. The Community Fund for Wellesley was established in 2008 in celebration of Wellesley's 125th birthday. A dedicated group of Town residents had a vision to create a fund that would exist to benefit members of the Wellesley community for generations to come. In the past 12 years, the Fund has made grants of over \$500,000 to more than 30 local non-profits and Town of Wellesley departments.

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