



# COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR THE ALLEGHENIES

SERVING BEDFORD, CAMBRIA, SOMERSET, AND INDIANA COUNTIES

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Communications Officer Kecia Bal  
(814) 208-8394 / [kbal@cfalleghenies.org](mailto:kbal@cfalleghenies.org)

## **County Commissioners Announce Nearly \$500K in Relief Funding for Local Nonprofits**

SOMERSET—On Tuesday, Somerset County commissioners announced \$490,000 in reimbursement funding for area nonprofits navigating the hardships of the coronavirus pandemic—including loss of regular fundraising dollars and increased demand for services.

To deploy funding as swiftly as possible, the reimbursement grants program, available through PA DCED's COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant, was administered through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (CFA) as the Somerset County COVID-19 Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program.

Grantees include nonprofits that provide life-saving services, help feed individuals and families, nurture the arts, and more. The largest grant, \$50,500, went to local food pantries. The Children's Aid Home Programs of Somerset County, Inc., which serves local children and families, and the Next Step Center, Inc., which provides emergency shelter to individuals in need, both received \$50,000.

"Throughout the pandemic, our local nonprofits have been tirelessly responding to the needs of our communities, whether it's feeding the hungry or caring for vulnerable populations," Somerset County Board of Commissioners Chairman Gerald Walker said. "We hope these grants will help the organizations who have been impacted by this crisis and support them in the important role they play for those who live in Somerset County."

Through the program, nonprofits were able to apply for reimbursements for COVID-related expenses incurred since March 1 that were used to serve Somerset County residents, including operational expenses, costs for increased sanitation, and expenses arising from responding to increased needs among low income families and those in Somerset County disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

CFA Associate Director Angie Berzonski said that administering the grants program is an ideal endeavor for CFA, which provides support for hundreds of local nonprofits in the region.

"We were honored to play a role in administering this grantmaking, getting support to local nonprofits as quickly as possible, and serving our community alongside the Somerset County commissioners," she said.

Pennsylvania DCED's COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant Program, available through an addition to the federal CARES Act funding, was made available to Pennsylvania county governments that met eligibility guidelines.

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*Benefiting our region every day, forever.* Community Foundation for the Alleghenies is a public, nonprofit foundation that manages funds to strengthen communities in Bedford, Cambria, Indiana, and Somerset counties. For more than 30 years, CFA has been working to empower individuals to become philanthropists, donors to make meaningful change, and caring citizens to design a legacy. For more information, visit [www.cfalleghenies.org](http://www.cfalleghenies.org).

Grants awarded through the Somerset County COVID-19 Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program are:

Arcadia Performing Arts: \$10,000  
Berlin Area Ambulance Association: \$32,179.87  
Boswell Volunteer Fire Department: \$32,179.88  
Camp Allegheny: \$10,000  
Camp Cadet of Somerset County: \$3,784.86  
Children's Aid Home: \$50,000  
Conemaugh Twp. Emergency Medical Services: \$32,179.87  
Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial: \$10,000  
Highlands Health Free Medical Clinic: \$10,000  
Johnstown Christian School: \$10,000  
Laurel Arts: \$10,000  
Laurel Trinity Preschool: \$10,000  
Mary S. Biesecker Public Library: \$10,000  
Meyersdale Area Historical Society: \$10,000  
Mountain Playhouse: \$10,000  
Next Step Center: \$50,000  
Pennsylvania Maple Festival: \$9,767.47  
Sequanota Conference Center and Camp: \$10,000  
Somerset Aero Club: \$8,065.90  
Somerset County food pantries: \$50,500  
Somerset County Foundation for Higher Education: \$10,000  
Somerset County Federated Library System: \$10,000  
Somerset County Foundation: \$10,000  
Somerset, Inc.: \$10,000  
Stoystown Volunteer Fire Company: \$9,859.95  
The Learning Lamp: \$10,000  
Trinity Lutheran Child Care & Learning Center: \$10,000  
Veteran Community Initiatives: \$3,202.77  
Windber Public Library Association: \$10,000  
YWCA Greater Johnstown: \$10,000  
Somerset County Mobile Food Bank: \$18,279.43

Total awarded: \$490,000

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