

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Southern Indiana Counties to Receive \$1.4 Million Grant to Address COVID-19 Relief Efforts** *Metro United Way Awarded Economic Relief Grant by Lilly Endowment Inc. through Indiana United Ways*

**April 21, 2020 [Louisville, Ky.]** – Metro United Way (MUW) will receive a \$1.4 million *COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative Grant* to support the efforts of human and social service nonprofit organizations on the frontline of the coronavirus pandemic in Clark, Floyd and Harrison County. As Southern Indiana’s community United Way organization, The Lilly Endowment Inc., in partnership with Indiana United Ways, identified MUW as a capable partner in addressing the short term response and long term recovery efforts needed in the region.

“Metro United Way has been a key coordinator of our community’s response to human needs for decades. Even before this crisis, we knew that 28% of families in our Southern Indiana region were struggling to make ends meet. Without a robust local nonprofit safety net, those needs are bound to become even more dire,” said Metro United Way, Southern Indiana Advisory Council Chair, Jeff Shireman. “Thanks to generous support from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., we are now more strongly positioned to help our community’s nonprofits address the immediate impacts of COVID-19, while also strategizing long-term recovery efforts.”

The *COVID-19 Economic Relief Initiative Grant* calls for United Ways that receive funding to leverage partnerships and relationships to better meet COVID-related essential and basic needs, which could include safe, emergency childcare, relief and other COVID-19 critical issues as they emerge. Specifically, Metro United Way has created a COVID-19 Committee (MUW,C19C), inclusive of a diverse representation of our Southern Indiana communities. MUW,C19C, will oversee strategies to address short-term response and long-term recovery efforts by addressing funding requests from human and social service organizations directly impacted by COVID-19 within the next couple weeks. Partner organizations in good standing will be awarded funds for immediate response efforts based on MUW’s evaluation of the most pressing needs. Long term recovery aid will be awarded via an online application and review process. Interested organizations should consult Pam Ottersbach at [pam.ottersbach@metrounitedway.org](mailto:pam.ottersbach@metrounitedway.org) for guidance on funding and application instructions.

### **ABOUT METRO UNITED WAY**

For more than 100 years, Metro United Way has been dedicated to improving lives in our community and that will never change. We are committed to reach our vision that everyone achieves their fullest potential, and we know that the ultimate measure of our success is in the ways we impact the quality of life for all of us. A community of connected people, all people, united and working together for the benefit of all is at the heart of what Metro United Way represents. We bring together the people and organizations who have the passion, expertise and resources needed to accomplish our goals and get things done. Together, we fight for the education, health and financial independence of every person in Bullitt, Jefferson, Oldham and Shelby counties in Kentucky and Clark, Floyd and Harrison counties in

Indiana. We invite you to stand with us and be a part of changing generations; you can give, advocate and volunteer.

**ABOUT LILLY ENDOWMENT INC.**

Lilly Endowment Inc., is a private philanthropic foundation supporting the causes of religion, education and community development focusing its work in Indianapolis and the State of Indiana. For more information, contact Judith Cebula, Communications Director at [communications@lei.org](mailto:communications@lei.org).

**ABOUT INDIANA UNITED WAYS**

Indiana United Ways is the state association for United Ways in Indiana that supports thriving United Ways through capacity building, shared services, and partnering. For more information, contact Maureen Noe, President & CEO at [Maureen.noe@iuw.org](mailto:Maureen.noe@iuw.org).

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