

Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)

June 9, 2020 – Weekly Update

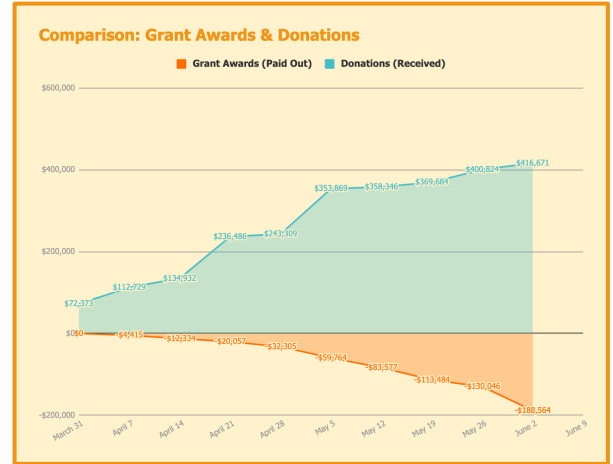


CERF ETHOS

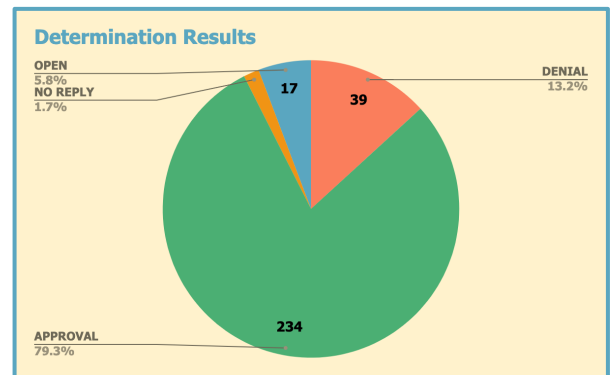
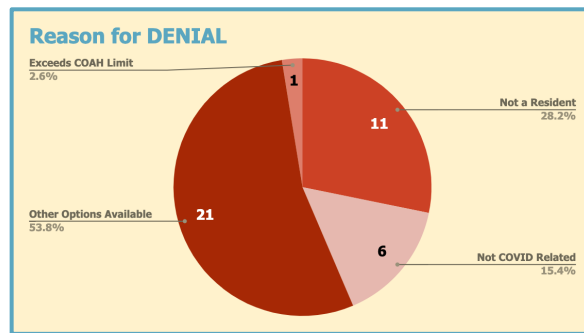
Our goal is for residents to be able to **stay in their homes** and to maintain access to utility service that enables **students to be connected to school** and enables **all residents to be connected to food resources** and other necessities during this crisis.

FUNDRAISING – \$420,921 as of June 9th

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 almost **800 donors** who have contributed.

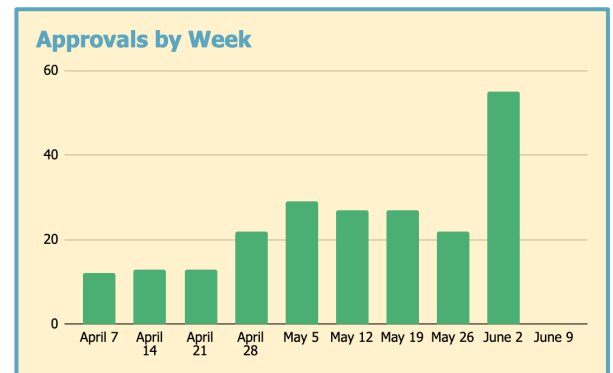
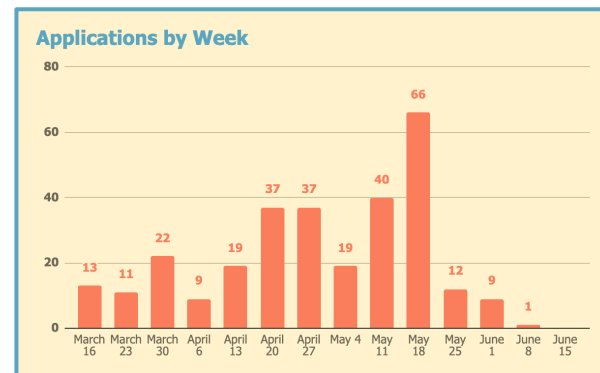


APPLICATIONS – 295 as of June 9th



To date, we have been able to help **171 unique households** stay sheltered and connected to resources. Of the 295 applications received, 124 are renewals and 234 grants have been awarded. The last two weeks of May saw over 100 application submissions and this past week, there were 55 cases approved for funding! The experience on the ground is far more dramatic than the *Applications by Week* or *Approvals by Week* charts might indicate. Given the absence of any utility shut off threat and the moratorium on evictions, we will manage the outreach for renewal applications more sustainably in July.

The 234 approved cases have received grants totaling just under **\$190,000**. The current average award rose slightly this week to **\$957.95**. At this award level and with our current funding, we will be able to help approximately 240 more applicants or times and have sufficient funding for 6 – 9 weeks at the current rate of applications received.



Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)

June 9, 2020 – Weekly Update

PROCESS

We are working to create a phased return to work accommodation within our process. We are documenting continued unemployment or under-employment and working with applicants so we can support what will be a gradual return to work for most. Few, if any, will go from completely unemployed to fully re-employed so we want to make that transition as smooth as possible for applicants.

For each renewal application, case managers track changes in earnings and work with applicants to determine which bills they would like CERF to consider. If funding allows, each month as applicants income increases, the CERF award will decrease until applicants are able to earn their pre-COVID income.

Governor Murphy announced the creation of a New Jersey [rental assistance](#) program and has advised that more information will be available in mid-June. Initial goals are to begin accepting applications in July and awarding benefits in September. Given the difficulties applicants report with the Unemployment Benefits Program, which was in place well before COVID, there is some concern that the implementation schedule is overly ambitious. Details often direct some programs so there remains the significant possibility that our clients will not be covered by the New Jersey program regardless of the implementation schedule.

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

PCF's non-pandemic mission focuses on the students in our public and charter schools and those students brought some joy to bear this week for the entire CERF team and renewed our commitment to H.O.P.E. Eighty-five students sent a submission to the Princeton Public School's Virtual Talent Show and Ms. Kelly Riely of John Witherspoon Middle Schools' "Do Something Club" worked with her team to put it all together in a really entertaining show. There were students solving Rubik's cubes, singing, dancing, and jumping ropes and others playing piano, and rocking it in a virtual band. There was something for everyone from Beethoven to Bowie and Hamilton to Wicked, the submissions covered the classics and Broadway. The Greatest Showman even made an appearance or two. If you didn't catch it and have a Princeton Public School Gmail email account, you can watch the show here: <https://www.princetonk12.org/>. It's just under 90 minutes of fabulous!

CERF TEAM

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

- Katherine Cardona* – Princeton Recreation Department (PRD)
- Kimberly Figueroa-Martinez* – Human Services
- Sindy Sandoval* – Corner House

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.

- Emily Becker* – friend of PCF
- Diane Paulsell* – Solidaridad Princeton
- Zoe D'Eugenio-Pinel* – friend of PCF
- Nicole Paulucci – PRD
- Andrea Dinan* – Princeton High School & PCF
- Trinidad Rodriguez* – JW Middle School & PCF
- Jordan Goodwin – Princeton Community Village
- Angie Vargas*/Cecilia Avila* – Arm in Arm
- Sharon Hurley – Princeton Senior Resource Center

* = dual-language speaker

