

Coronavirus Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)

Final Update



CERF ETHOS

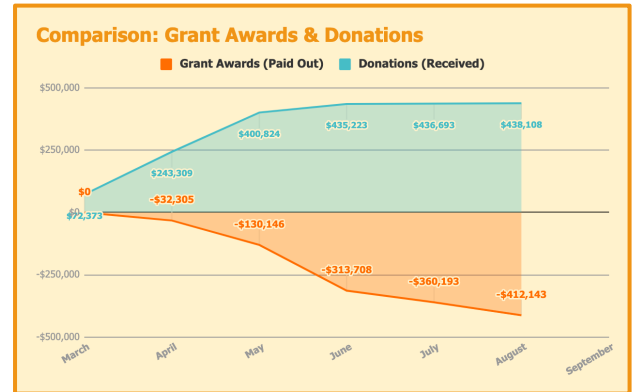
Our goal was for residents to be able to **stay in their homes** and to maintain access to utility service that enabled **students to be connected to school** and enabled **all residents to be connected to food resources** during the pandemic.

FUNDRAISING - \$438,106 Total

CERF was supported in part with grants from the Covid-19 Relief & Recovery Fund of **Princeton Area Community Foundation**, the **Princeton University Relief Fund**, and **The Green Family Foundation**.

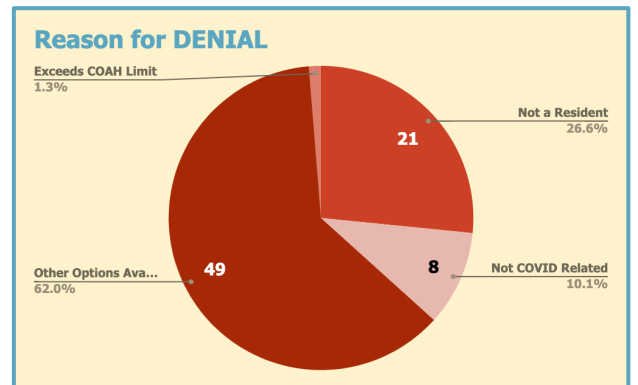
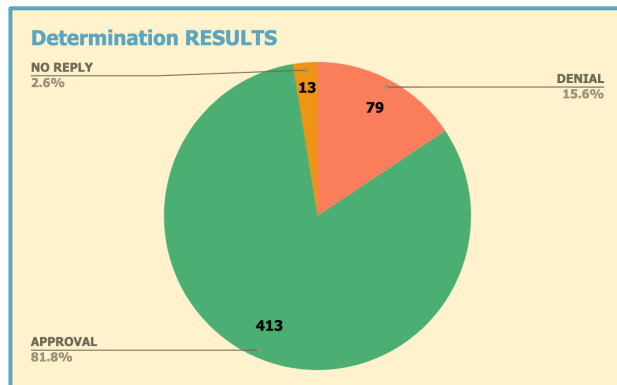
CERF also received support from the following members of the Housing Stability Coalition: **Princeton Alliance Church**, **Nassau Presbyterian Church**, **Stone Hill Church**, **Housing Initiatives of Princeton**, and **St. Vincent de Paul**.

We are grateful to our **grantors**, the **Housing Stability Coalition**, and to the over **850 donors** who supported this effort. Upon completion of an accounting audit, any and all remaining funds will be distributed to CERF-qualified families through the ongoing efforts of the **Housing Stability Coalition**.



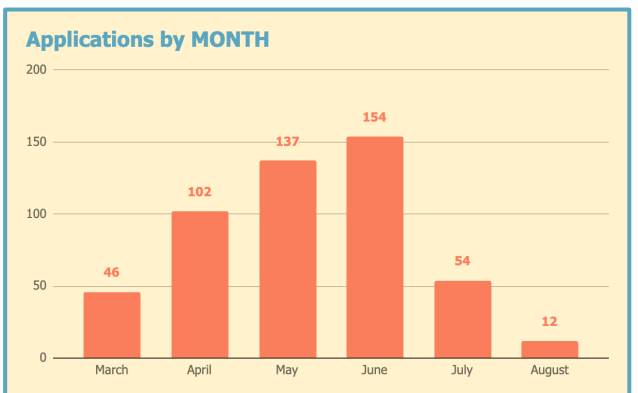
APPLICATIONS - 505 between March and August

During the 22 weeks in which CERF considered applications, over 500 requests were submitted. First time applications were received from 215 households and there were 290 renewal requests. A total of **413 grants were awarded** with an average award size of **\$1,008.07**.



Seventy-nine applications were denied with 28 of the denials occurring in August. The applications that were denied in August were due to: earnings in excess of expenses/other options available, 23; not a resident, 4; and not COVID-related, 1.

Applications peaked in June seemingly in keeping with the June 15th **Phase II Reopening**. Even with continued progress in the phased reopening plan, there remains a concern for 2021. Many applicants work seasonal jobs to supplement their annual income and budget those earnings over the course of the year. The loss of one or more seasonal jobs in 2020 may well impact their ability to pay bills in 2021 and create another spike.

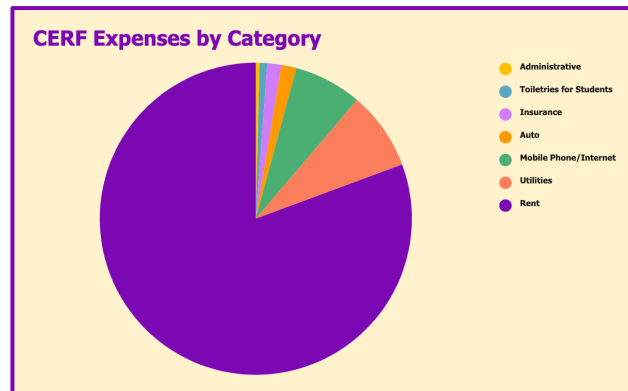


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CERF EXPENSES† – AS OF 10/1/20

In the course of CERF, payments were made to 41 individual or corporate landlords. **Rent** payments represented the single largest expense category and accounted for almost 81% of all expenditures. Over 665 **Utility** (8%) or **Mobile Phone/Internet** (7%) payments were made and represented just over 15% of all expenditures. **Administrative** (0.4%), **Toiletries for Students** (0.8%), **Insurance** (1.5%), and **Auto** (1.6%) expenses accounted for the remainder. Administrative expenses will increase from 0.4% to approximately 3.8% after audit expenses are incurred.



† = A full audit will be completed with PCF's fiscal year tax filings.

CERF TEAM

There are no words to adequately capture my gratitude for the dedication and commitment of the CERF Team. In absence of a coordinated governmental effort and in the face of a myriad of obstacles, these **volunteers** came together and mobilized the CERF. By March 16th an application process had been developed, by March 29th outreach flyers in English and Spanish had been delivered to hundreds of potential applicants, and by April 14th the first cases were approved for payment. While many people focused on their own families and homes, this group went above and beyond to make sure that their **entire community** was able to weather the pandemic. They contributed thousands of hours to CERF, working many nights and weekends, and brought relief and comfort to hundreds of families in Princeton.

Our **Steering Committee** and **Intake Coordinators** did not limit themselves to rent and utility payment support. They also worked to ensure that residents were connected to food resources, school-aged children had devices and mobile hotspots to participate in online classes, and they directed families to quarantine resources when needed. They provided technical assistance with navigating online resources like Unemployment Insurance Benefits and helped residents re-certify rent when possible. It was a truly holistic and individualized network of support provided from the heart of each team member.

Intake Coordinators – this team answered the Princeton Human Services phone line and helped potential recipients navigate the application process. They also made outbound phone calls each month for renewal applications, listened to applicant concerns, collected feedback and suggestions, and communicated this to the Steering Committee with each application. **Many thanks to:**

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

Steering Committee – this team processed intakes, helped applicants gather necessary supporting documentation, worked with applicants to uncover all needs, and communicated CERF updates to each applicant month after month. **Much gratitude to:**

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

