

Black Hills Area Community Foundation awarding \$20,000 in grants to address immediate food needs

March 16, 2020

The Black Hills Area Community Foundation, home of the Collective Impact Food Security Initiative, is actively working to address immediate food security needs that arise as a result of COVID-19 prevention efforts.

With local schools closed and many communal feeding sites adjusting their food service plans for the coming days and weeks, BHACF recognizes that the agencies who serve people in need in our communities on a daily basis will stretch their staffs, their volunteers, and their funds even further during this unusual and unprecedented time in our country. In response, the BHACF Board of Directors voted to support Executive Director Liz Hamburg's recommendation today to award \$10,000 grants to Feeding South Dakota and Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota as they work on the frontlines of feeding people across our region.

"Both Feeding South Dakota and Meals on Wheels Western South Dakota are active collaborators in addressing food security in our region and are mobilizing resources and responding during this public health crisis," Hamburg said.

"Rapid City community leaders have been coming together for more than three years under the leadership of BHACF and RCCI to partner in solving the issues that face our community," Meals on Wheels Executive Director George Larson said. "Now, due to that hard work, the partnerships that have been formed are allowing all of us to come together quickly to create a plan that allows the food security needs of our community to be addressed. Meals on Wheels, through a renewed partnership with other RCCI-associated organizations, is here today, tomorrow, and for as long as is needed to ensure safe, healthy food is provided to our senior neighbors by healthy, trained staff and volunteers."

BHACF has two funds available to assist our community partners in this food security work and welcomes donations from community members who want to support this overarching effort. To contribute, please visit the foundation's Black Hills Disaster Recovery Fund homepage at <http://bit.ly/blackhillsdisasterrelief> or the Food Security Fund homepage at <http://bit.ly/refoodsecurity>.

Donors may also send checks payable to "BHACF" to the Black Hills Area Community Foundation, PO Box 231, Rapid City, SD 57709. For more information, call the BHACF office at 605-718-0112.