

Programming Response to COVID-19

Focus: HOPE is doubling down in its support for those we serve, knowing that our beneficiaries will be particularly affected during this health emergency.

Changes in operations occur based on emerging developments, including the extended state-wide emergency, resulting in a need to respond quickly to the needs of our community.

We are diligent in following all suggested safety precautions and implementing social distancing guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and local authorities.

Food for Seniors

Each month, 42,000 seniors across four counties rely on food from Focus: HOPE to supplement their grocery budgets. We rely on hundreds of monthly volunteer hours to assemble food packages for low-income seniors and deliver food to home-bound older adults. We are making sure that seniors do not go hungry during the crisis by implementing no contact pickup and delivery methods. With local partners, we are also distributing fresh food & bottled water to community members.

2,644

Newly Enrolled Seniors

1,228

Crisis Response Volunteers

Additional Community Distributions:

37,440

Bottles of Water

5,350

Produce & Dairy Boxes

Early Learning & Youth Development

Despite the shutdown, staff are providing students and families with virtual home visits, during which they provide educational activities as well as wraparound support services, including coordination to partner organizations for emergency relief.

We are also providing basic needs support, including baby essentials packages and food boxes, through coordination with organizational partners including Higher Hopes and Gleaners Community Food Bank.

4,399

Referrals to Emergency Help

3,583

Baby Essential Packages

4,800

Family Food Packages

\$105,780

Retail Value of Baby Packages

\$65,207

Retail Value of Food Packages

Workforce Development & Education

We are conducting virtual training and recruiting. WDE Specialists connect with current and prospective students via email or phone to address needs through Focus: HOPE supportive services or connection to partner organizations. WDE is using Microsoft Teams as the meeting platform, providing access to e-books, supplemental online labs through TestOut, and hands-on labs in virtual machines.

We have also established an Unemployment Help Line to assist community members in applying for unemployment benefits.

45 Students Enrolled in Virtual Training

62 Students Graduated from Virtual Training

186 Unemployment Inquiries Received

Advocacy, Equity, and Community Empowerment

We are committed to helping people remain connected, informed, and on track with their educational, economic, and community goals. As a contributor to the COVID313 coalition, Focus: HOPE is co-hosting weekly virtual town halls to provide reliable, up-to-date information from trusted sources.

We have also partnered with the Family Independence Initiative to provide direct cash assistance to over 400 Detroit households, to help them maintain their economic standing throughout this crisis..

50,428

Virtual Town Hall Viewers

\$214,850

Cash Assistance Distributed