



Pockets for Change

KRISTIN O'MALLEY, PRESIDENT AND CEO



Gertrude Stein once said, “Money is always there, but the pockets change.” We agree about the pockets.

Recently, The Cape Cod Foundation received a \$1,362,895 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through its Department of Housing and Community Development to support food security and access across Cape Cod.

That’s a new pocket. That’s not pocket change. And, quite frankly, since life for some of our most vulnerable populations has been *dark as a pocket*, this funding is a literal lifeline. Inflation is inflating the demand for food programs and services, which have seen a 25% increase in the past few months alone. In our first CDBG wave, we awarded a total of \$378,688 to Cape Kid Meals,

Family Pantry of Cape Cod, and South Shore Community Action Council. We’ll release the next wave later this summer. [PRESS RELEASE](#) | [“Fighting Hunger” article, Cape Cod Times \(6.14.22\)](#)

OTHER PEOPLE’S POCKETS

In Foundation work, though, it’s also critical to know what’s in other people’s pockets. While that might sound nefarious at its worst and self-serving at its best, knowing what resources are available or already in play leads to strategic, impactful grantmaking. Our extensive network of nonprofit executives, business partners, civic leaders, and philanthropic connections informs every grant decision we make. We are also part of a local Funders’ Network, another pocket for change.

Several years ago, we formed an informal partnership with a variety of local funders [see *Sidebar Below*] to: share information about community needs, initiatives, and resources; review proposals from the nonprofit sector; and discuss collaborative funding for greater community impact. The pandemic strengthened the network, which is now a more formalized, strategic partnership. Our goal is two-fold: to inform each funder’s individual grantmaking so we can fund unmet needs across the region without duplicating efforts; and to pool resources to fuel larger initiatives that lead to systemic change.

The \$41.37 million Barnstable County received in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is another large pocket for change—and, quite possibly, a once in a lifetime opportunity for community leaders to strategically collaborate for the greater good. As a member of the local Advisory Committee, I’m helping to advise the Barnstable County Commissioners and the Assembly of Delegates on regional funding priorities and recommend criteria to identify projects of regional impact for funding. This includes sharing information about other available funding.

There is always a sense of urgency to deploy funding into the community as quickly as possible; however, we can't let substantial resources, like the local Funders' Network and ARPA funds, burn a hole in our pockets. We need to leverage them to effect long-term change across Cape Cod.

FIXED POCKETS

The CDBG funding couldn't have come at a better time. But it also came with a pocketful of requirements. The nonprofits who receive these grants must: serve certain demographics; meet specific program requirements; demonstrate increases in the level of service due to the pandemic; have the capacity to collect, store, and report required data; and be able to support expenditures while waiting for reimbursement.

One of the ways we leveraged CDBG resources was to focus on capital expenditures for nonprofits. These high-ticket items—equipment, appliances, and refrigerated trucks—are critical to food distribution, yet are rarely eligible for funding through most grant programs. The CDBG funding presented a unique opportunity for us to help nonprofits invest in capacity-building infrastructure, which, in turn, will allow them to utilize other, more flexible resources at their disposal advantageously. The CDBG funding also allows the Foundation to dip into other discretionary pockets to support other food security needs and other nonprofit organizations doing incredible work throughout the community that may not have been a match for CDBG funding.

FLEXIBLE POCKETS

While we will continue to champion working collaboratively to strategically deploy existing resources, we can't stand around with our hands in our pockets. Although Gertrude Stein maintains, "Money is always there," we need to ensure "money is always *here*." Soon, we'll announce two new initiatives to build additional pools of flexible resources: one to specifically support women and girls on Cape Cod; the other to increase the standard of living for our year-round population by supporting the overall economic viability of the region.

Your support fuels our success. You are part of the Foundation's network. You have not only contributed to the Foundation's work but enabled the larger sphere of influence we have across the region. And, that's pretty powerful stuff. Thank you for staying engaged. You are—and will always be—the secret weapon in our back pocket.

WAYS TO SUPPORT

[Donate to the Foundation's Strategic Emergency Response Fund](#)

[Support the Foundation's Civic Leadership Work](#)

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Stayed Tuned for Information About New Initiatives and Upcoming Community Forums

THE CAPE COD AND ISLANDS FUNDERS' NETWORK

- The Network is open to anyone who is funding or who is interested in funding nonprofit initiatives across Cape Cod and the Islands. There are no funding requirements. Funders choose which projects they want to support and how much they want to invest.
- Dara Gannon, the Director of Programs and Donors Services for The Cape Cod Foundation, is on the Advisory Committee.
- Caitlin Abber, the Foundation's Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships Officer, has been instrumental in informing and advancing the Funder's Network.
- This year Philanthropy Massachusetts became the facilitator for the Funders' Network. Founded in 1969, the nonprofit serves a diverse and vibrant membership of highly engaged philanthropic organizations and individuals with interests in Massachusetts. It is a leading and influential voice and advocate for effective philanthropy and delivers excellent opportunities in learning,

networking, access to resources and tools, skill-building, and community-building and serves as a bridge between funders and fund applicants for better understanding, efficiency and impact.

- To date, The Cape Cod Foundation and other funders have pooled over \$500,000 to support the Institute for Nonprofit Practice's Core Certificate Program on Cape Cod and the Islands. The funds have helped offset tuition costs for more than 100 local leaders participating in this intensive, year-long program. Graduates receive a certificate in Social Impact Management and Leadership and emerge with the skills, knowledge, and networks they need to make strategic, mission-driven decisions that center diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB), and effect meaningful change in their organizations and beyond.
- The Cape Cod Foundation, Cape Cod 5 Foundation, Inc., and The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod awarded a \$12,000 collaborative grant (\$4,000 each) to Duffy Health Center to support Phase II of its exploration to create a medical respite program on Cape Cod for those experiencing homelessness.