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**COVID-19 EMERGENCY CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY LOCAL PARTNERS**

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (March 23, 2020) – [United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County](#), the [San Antonio Area Foundation](#) and the City of San Antonio's [Department of Human Services](#) have joined together to provide childcare relief to those workers needing to work in remaining open businesses and needing assistance with paying for childcare during this time.

As a result of the COVID-19 situation and the Mayor's Health Emergency Declarations, many lives have been turned upside down. Three weeks of emergency assistance for working parents during this coronavirus time can be available to eligible families through the COVID-19 Emergency Childcare Assistance program.

Many parents or guardians who must leave home to go to work are struggling to respond to the demands of providing childcare for their children, including young babies, pre-school-aged children and school-age youth 12 years old and younger whose schools are now closed.

“For those families already experiencing personal and family challenges, the demands and restrictions of COVID-19 add additional elements of strain,” said Chris Martin, CEO of United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

“The goal of our partnership with the Area Foundation and the City’s Department of Human Services is to ensure that this emergency childcare assistance will relieve some of the stress associated with the current health environment.”

United Way and the San Antonio Area Foundation launched the assistance program with donations of \$50,000, respectively. Parents or guardians eligible for assistance will receive a letter and voucher to provide to the childcare center. Initially up to three weeks of childcare assistance will be provided in an effort to help as many families as possible. The two funding nonprofits, along with the City’s Department of Human Services, will monitor local conditions to determine if additional assistance can be made available.

Applicants with children through middle school age, (ages 6 weeks through 12), should call the [United Way 2-1-1 Help Line](#), available 24/7/365, to inquire about meeting following criteria:

- Children 6 weeks through 12 years old of working parents needing to physically go into work during this time.
- Valid current pay stub and verification of Bexar County residency; various forms of income verification will be allowable.
- Temporary emergency childcare assistance (3 weeks) will be provided for licensed and registered childcare center or licensed/registered home care. Reimbursement will be issued directly to the childcare center, following Workforce Solutions Childcare Center reimbursements rates.

“Ensuring our children are in safe learning environments and thriving while parents providing critical services in our community are unable to stay at home remains a top priority for the City of San Antonio,” said Melody Woosley, Human Services Director.

“We wanted to come together to offer a respite to individuals and families with children, who must report to work and who are facing a myriad of issues compounded by the coronavirus pandemic,” said Marjie French, CEO of the San Antonio Area Foundation. “All of this is possible because of trusted relationships with our nonprofit community, who will care for children as parents address a broader spectrum of needs.”

United Way’s Women United members continue to have a positive effect on developing successful children, helping students succeed in school, and strengthening families in our community. The group of over 3,300 local philanthropists has long been supporting education through adoption of its signature cause, the [Childcare Scholarship program](#). The COVID-19 Emergency Childcare Assistance program is an extension of their care and concern for others.

In addition, beginning Wednesday, March 25, 2020, [YWCA San Antonio](#), a United Way community impact partner, will make 50 additional childcare slots available for health care workers, with women getting first priority on a first-come, first-served basis. For years YWCA, in the forefront of youth development, has worked to provide early education programs critical to promoting child development and success in school-- vital services for helping parents obtain and retain employment.

As a leader in youth development, the [YMCA of Greater San Antonio](#) is supporting our social services network providers, essential providers such as (e.g. health care providers, law enforcement and first responders, government officials, community service agencies) who need safe and reliable places for their children.

Scholarships are available for children of health care workers and first responders. Families can register at <https://ymcasatx.org/empchildcare>.

“Just like every crisis before, we come together in the name of our humanity. And just like it’s been for the last 144 years, the Y is here for good and to help you remain healthy in spirit, mind, and body,” said Sandy Morander, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater San Antonio. “Showing up for our community is what we do best. We’re honored to do what we do best to help families across our region.”

The COVID-19 Emergency Childcare Assistance program follows a recent partnership announcement by United Way and the San Antonio Area Foundation, the COVID-19 Response Fund, which includes over a dozen corporations, foundations and philanthropists who have committed over \$2.7 million to the effort. The Fund also accepts donations from the general public. Donations will benefit local nonprofits impacted by coronavirus restrictions while serving clients experiencing food insecurities, homelessness, rent and utility shortfalls, unemployment and many other personal and family challenges. To make a contribution to the COVID-19 Response Fund, visit [www.helpsatx.org](http://www.helpsatx.org) or text “helpsatx” to 41444.

#### **About United Way**

[United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County](#) focuses on preparing children for school and life, helping students graduate and succeed, strengthening the well-being of individuals and families, and providing safety net services (food, clothing, shelter, and emergency care.) United Way also operates the [2-1-1 Help Line](#) and fosters volunteerism through the [Volunteer Center at United Way](#).

#### **About the San Antonio Area Foundation**

The San Antonio Area Foundation has served as the sole, designated community foundation for the San Antonio area for over half a century, growing to become one of the top 20 foundations in the nation based on asset size. The Area Foundation helps donors achieve their charitable goals, managing more than 500 charitable funds exceeding \$1 billion in assets. Coordinating efforts with numerous area nonprofits, the Area Foundation serves as a collaborative leader, connecting donors to address key community issues and investing in our future. Since 1964, over \$500 million in scholarships and grants have been awarded to enhance the quality of life in our region. Learn more at [www.saafdn.org](http://www.saafdn.org).

#### **About the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services**

The [Department of Human Services](#) provides leadership, develops collaborative strategies, and maximizes resources to improve the quality of life for children, families and seniors in our community.

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