



## The Lenny Zakim Fund

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

Dear Friends,

I hope this message finds you healthy and safe. As communities throughout Massachusetts reel from the challenges of Covid-19, those who experience discrimination and financial insecurity in the “best of times” are now more vulnerable than ever. **In response, we fast-tracked our annual grantmaking process and disbursed \$576,000 in unrestricted grants in a matter of days.**

We’ve followed philanthropic best practices by reaching out to our grant recipients to check-in about their questions and concerns, provide reassurance of our funding commitments, host virtual listening sessions, and mobilize in response to critical needs. Yet, I recognize that current needs will certainly evolve as most **grassroots organizations face an uncertain future.**

In speaking with many of our grassroots leaders by phone or online, what I am hearing is not surprising or dissimilar from what you might expect. They are worried about the programs they’ve had to suspend, the events they’ve had to cancel, the fundraising they’ve lost, the staffing decisions they are trying to balance, and the vulnerable individuals/families they serve who are now even more isolated and at-risk. We do not know how long this uncertainty will last, but what I do know is that small, grassroots organizations are even more important now than ever to the communities they serve. **And that means your support is even more vital than ever before.**

In light of the current public health emergency, the Fund has more than doubled its pool of emergency grants to \$56,000 thus far, with the goal of raising at least \$100,000 more in order to enhance our ability to support grassroots community organizations in the coming weeks and months. **I invite you to join us during this crucial moment in history.** Please give what you can and consider your gift an act of **solidarity** as opposed to charity because your support now will make all the difference!

In Solidarity,

Eric Esteves  
Executive Director

[Click here to stand in solidarity](#)



## Meet LZF's Grant Recipients for 2020!

Though our annual Awards Ceremony has been cancelled, we still want to celebrate each of our grant recipients and highlight their tremendous work and impact. Please check out the listing and press release below to learn more about the grassroots organizations the Lenny Zakim Fund is proud to support. Make sure to also follow our social media channels for a series of social media and PR posts highlighting each of our grantees – collectively and individually – to draw attention to their work and impact.



Most of our recipients are on the front lines of this crisis, supporting their community and meeting the needs of those left behind. [Click here to see a list of our 2020 grant recipients!](#)

## Need something to read?



The Boston Business Journal recently interviewed Eric Esteves, giving him an opportunity to share his goals. [Read it here!](#)

During this time of local, national and global crisis, there is a lot of helpful information and resources being shared. We have added a list to the Community Resources page on our website of things that we think might be particularly helpful and we'll be updating this on a regular basis.

- [Philanthropy Massachusetts: Disaster and Emergency Relief Resources](#)
- [Nonprofit Finance Fund: What Nonprofits Should Do Right Now](#)
- [The Bridgespan Group: Eight Steps for Managing Through Tough Times](#)

[Click here to see what else we're reading.](#)

## We're Hiring: Director of Development

The Lenny Zakim Fund is looking for a full-time Director of Development. Please see the full job description [here](#) and share with anyone you feel might be a great candidate for this important position.

## Boston Marathon® Update

As many of you may know, the Boston Marathon has been rescheduled for the first time in its history, to September 14th. Our Lenny Zakim Fund 2020 Marathon Team remains committed to running and to supporting LZF. The fundraising deadline has been extended to October 16, and because this will be a "heartbreak hill" of a fundraising challenge for Mytrang and Amanda during this



challenging time, we hope everyone will pledge your support and keep an eye on their progress [here](#).

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