First off, breathe…..

Here is good messaging to grantees. We need to begin to put some templates together that provide a framework for foundations to share news as we anticipate actions at the state and federal levels………

From: Punita Thurman <pthurman@skillman.org>
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 12:57 PM
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Subject: Skillman Grant Partner Update 03.25.20 (Covid313 app and Tele-townhall TOMORROW + other resources)

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Hello partners,

It has been a difficult two weeks. While we pour our hearts into our work to confront the worries we hold for our community, I have no doubt that each and every one of us faces significant personal challenges as well—from livelihoods to physical, mental, and emotional health for ourselves and our loved ones. The partnership, resilience, and commitment I see building in the face of hardship is getting me through this moment. It is what I am holding on to in order to keep moving forward. I suspect the same is true for you. I’ve been trying to focus on the helpers all among us – [this story](#) highlights one but I know each of you could highlight dozens more.

I hope you are feeling well in all ways and are taking care of yourself. We desperately need leaders like you right now, and always.

While it’s not perfect, I hope the [federal stimulus package deal](#) announced this morning provides you with
While it’s not perfect, I hope the federal stimulus package deal announced this morning provides you with some relief. We are eager, like you, to better understand how this package will support our neighbors and the nonprofits organizations they rely on.

As promised in my previous email, we wanted to share quick updates periodically on resources we find helpful. Please reach out and let us know what else you need to know or what you hear so we can help get the word out. Included in this note are:

1. COVID313 App; Family & Student Virtual Townhall – This Thursday, March 26
2. AFP Greater Detroit Chapter Town Hall (#2) recorded webinar – This Thursday, March 26
3. Skillman Grant Reporting & Grant Flexibility Forms
4. UWSEM COVID-19 Fund accepting applications including education learning fun
5. Skillman Foundation recorded webinar HR/Legal Support for Nonprofit Employers
6. Virtual and In-Person Volunteer Needs

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your program officer with questions or concerns.

Stay safe, stay well, and stay home.

With gratitude,

Punita
On behalf of The Skillman Foundation Program Team

Community Education Commission, in partnership with partners, launches Covid313.org for parents: The COVID313 Community Coalition for Families and Students is a growing group of more than 20 education-based community organizations that support students and parents during the COVID-19 crisis. Please promote and provide feedback on how these platforms can be more valuable:

- Covid313.org app launches – Designed to be mobile accessible and offer key links and resources
- The first in a series of Tele-town halls is this Thursday, March 26 at 12:00pm. See flyer attached and Facebook link here
- Share this public Facebook Group page has launched Metro Detroit Parent and Student COVID-Resource sharing site.

AFP Greater Detroit Chapter TownHalls: On Thursday, March 26th, from 2 PM to 3 PM the Association of Fundraising Professionals for Great Detroit will be hosting an online town hall to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on our organizations and how we are responding. This is the second town hall Click here to view the first; general sessions will be held once a week for the next few weeks. This is an opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives with our fundraising colleagues on how to handle this rapidly evolving issue. See here for more information.

We will schedule one or two smaller, more specialized sessions in the coming days, so please be on the
lookout for those.

**Extension of Skillman Foundation reporting deadlines, reminder of grant partner flexibility form:** We recognize that everyone is managing many pressing issues right now. As a result, any grant reports due between March 17 and May 1 are allowed a 90-day extension. You will still receive automatic reminders/notifications of the report due dates. You can access all reports through the grant reporting system.

Furthermore, a reminder, we are offering all grant partners the ability to convert up to 25% of their programmatic dollars to general operating funds. To do so, please fill out our Grant Partner Grant Flexibility Request form. Our intent is to respond to your request quickly; we want to be helpful and accommodating.

**UWSEM COVID-19 fund is accepting applications, education learning fund launched:** Over $5M has been raised for the UWSEM’s COVID-19 fund, with The Skillman Foundation contributing $500,000. An informational toolkit is attached; you can learn more on the request page. Additionally they are launching an educational learning grant fund; you can find the application here.

**Recorded Webinar for HR/Legal Support:** With Governor Whitmer’s Stay Home, Stay Safe, Safe Lives executive order, many employers have shut down in-person operations, which may lead to additional human resources (HR) challenges. The Foundation wanted to offer grant partners the opportunity to hear directly from HR and legal experts. We worked with Clark Hill and HR Advisory Advantage to provide some guidance as you navigate the new and developing workplace issues surrounding COVID-19. Read more and find resources on our blog.

**Virtual and In-Person Volunteer Opportunities:** If your volunteers or your staff are looking for ways to get involved, please refer them to the following resources:
- For in-person opportunities, blood drive information and in-kind donations.
- For virtual volunteer opportunities.

**Additional Resources:**
- Detroit Regional Chamber hosts townhalls with state and national leaders
- Detroit News: Michigan Students won’t Have Take M-STEP
- HBR: What it Takes to Run a Great Virtual Meeting
- Click on Detroit: Michigan Gov. Whitmer holds press conference on coronavirus response
- National Mentoring Resource Center: Tips for E-Mentoring

The Skillman Foundation team is working remotely. Therefore, our offices will be closed through April 3,
The Skillman Foundation team is working remotely. Therefore, our offices will be closed through April 3, 2020 for Coronavirus (COVID-19) safety. We will continue to assess the public health risks; this timeline may change if needed. Our team is committed to continue our support for Detroit children, families, and the organizations that serve them during this critical time.

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