



CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

Dunham Fund



“With Blackbaud Grantmaking, it’s kind of business as usual. One of the things we can do is easily go and change the application to make things seamless for organizations we’re serving.”

—Vicki Morcos, President and CEO

The Dunham Fund in Illinois seeks to build a healthy, thriving community through grantmaking. When COVID-19 began impacting local organizations, the Dunham Fund needed the right grantmaking partner to respond as quickly as possible.

The Dunham Fund tackles its community’s most urgent COVID-19 needs in fastest way.

The Dunham Fund made quick adjustments to its grantmaking process to ensure that it could drive the most impact in its Illinois community during COVID-19. With Blackbaud as a partner, the Dunham Fund transitioned to an interim grant application that would streamline funding and best honor the vision of its founder, John C. Dunham, to build a healthy, thriving community through grantmaking.

The Dunham Fund recognized early on the constraints on local nonprofit organizations and set out to make its grant application faster and easier for organizations to apply. That simplified process allowed the Dunham Fund to respond more efficiently and effectively. Among its changes, the Dunham Fund removed its deadline, suspended its letter of intent requirement, allowed online applications for small grants, and emphasized applications addressing COVID-19 needs.

Dunham Fund is powered by:

Blackbaud Grantmaking™



“With Blackbaud Grantmaking, it’s kind of business as usual,” said President and CEO Vicki Morcos. “One of the things we can do is easily go and change the application to make things seamless for organizations we’re serving.”

The Dunham Fund provides grants to organizations that encourage innovation and collaboration in educational and community development programs and projects. In the wake of COVID-19, the Dunham Fund focused on the most pressing needs and ensuring that organizations could avoid obstacles to grant funding that could keep them afloat within a challenging financial landscape. “As money starts to filter to states and communities and we learn how federal and state dollars will be allocated,” Morcos explained, “we are also discovering how we can we fill that gap.”

Morcos said local homeless shelters surfaced urgent needs early on, as they handled unanticipated demand by setting up tents in warehouses to afford families privacy. Food pantries also experienced a surge in clients, as local churches had to shut down their own soup kitchens suddenly. Walk-in social services that transitioned to home visits required more staff and proper sanitation and protective equipment—both costly changes.

In addition to making adjustments to its grantmaking process at the outset of the pandemic, the Dunham Fund partnered with four other local grantmakers to pool resources and launch the Fox Valley Grantmakers COVID-19 Response Fund to address the most critical needs in quality healthcare, human services, and educational opportunities. “It was important for us to come together with our funding partners to maximize our resources,” Morcos said, “in an effort to address as many needs as possible.”

Ensure your foundation’s giving programs are strategic and outcome-focused.

[Learn more](#)



With Blackbaud Grantmaking, the Dunham Fund removed its deadline, suspended its letter of intent requirement, allowed online applications for small grants, and emphasized applications addressing COVID-19 needs.

About Blackbaud

Leading uniquely at the intersection point of technology and social good, Blackbaud connects and empowers organizations to increase their impact through cloud software, services, expertise, and data intelligence. We serve the entire social good community, which includes nonprofits, foundations, companies, education institutions, healthcare organizations, and the individual change agents who support them.