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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds award \$746,012 to 165 organizations in North Idaho and Eastern Washington**

SPOKANE, WA, June 16, 2020; Innovia Foundation today announced 165 grants totaling \$746,012 from the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Funds for North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

This is the second round of grants from the Response and Recovery Funds and is directed to nonprofit and grassroots organizations, as well as tribal entities, schools and other government agencies, that are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Grants focused on childcare and youth, food assistance needs, support for immigrant and refugee communities, mental health resources and small business support.

A \$5,000 grant to NAMI Far North will help pay phone service for mental health clinicians who staff the North Idaho Crisis Services (NICS) and increase advertising regarding mental health services available in the community. Kootenai Tribe of Idaho is receiving \$4,000 to provide housing assistance, food security, mental health services or other basic expenses to support tribal members hit hardest by the outbreak. IdaHope Families will support the financial needs of families affected by unemployment, domestic violence, substance abuse, homelessness, mental illness and medical crises with a \$4,000 grant. See attached for the full list of organizations receiving COVID-19 Response and Recovery funding throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds are hosted at Innovia Foundation in partnership with Equinox Foundation and Avista Foundation in North Idaho and Empire Health Foundation and Spokane County United Way in Eastern Washington.

“Equinox Foundation is proud to be part of this collaborative effort,” said Equinox Foundation Board President Julie Meyer. “The partners and funders involved recognize that we can have greater impact by working together and are committed to assisting the most marginalized and vulnerable members of our community who are adversely affected by this outbreak.”

“This crisis has further exposed and deepened the economic and health inequities in our region. Our funding partners recognize this reality and have prioritized many of these funds to support organizations that are trusted in their communities to address the needs of our most vulnerable citizens,” said Todd Kiesbuy, Avista’s Regional Business Manager for North Idaho. “These resources will be directed to the people who need it most. The level of cooperation and communication among the funders is truly remarkable and Avista is honored to be part of this effort.”

“The second round of COVID-19 grants continues to address the most urgent needs in our region and supports organizations doing the work on the ground,” said Innovia Foundation CEO Shelly O’Quinn. “As our region enters into the recovery phase, we are reminded of the strength of community and collaboration as we collectively make these grants thoughtfully and strategically with over 100 regional volunteers and trusted voices.”

Grants from the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Funds are administered in partnership with regional community advisory groups consisting of residents and leaders from health, business, education and human services sectors. Thanks to the generosity of local, regional and national funding partners, the funds for Eastern Washington and North Idaho have surpassed \$2.7 million.

Businesses, individuals and organizations can donate and find additional information about the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Funds for North Idaho and Eastern Washington at [innovia.org/COVID19](http://innovia.org/COVID19).

**COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding partners:** Innovia Foundation, Empire Health Foundation, Spokane County United Way, Avista Foundation, Ballmer Group, Bank of America, BECU, Better Health Together, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Burlington Northern, Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation, Columbia Bank, Community Building Foundation, Cowles Company, Delta Dental of Washington, Equinox Foundation, Health Sciences & Services Authority of Spokane County, Itron, Lewis-Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation, MultiCare Health System, M.J. Murdock Charitable Foundation, Mountain West Bank, Numerica Credit Union, Perigee Fund, PotlatchDeltic Corporation, Premera Blue Cross, Providence Health Care, STCU, Umpqua Bank, Washington Trust Bank, Wells Fargo and Women Helping Women Fund, and dozens of generous individual donors from our communities.

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Innovia Foundation ignites generosity that transforms lives and communities so that every person has the opportunity to thrive. As the community foundation for Eastern Washington and North Idaho, we partner with people who want to make our world better. We work together to address and solve our region’s problems, help those in need, identify and respond to our greatest opportunities and leave a lasting impact. Each year, Innovia Foundation invests nearly \$7 million into our communities through grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and local students.