



### **Update on Oak Foundation's approach to addressing Covid-19**

This global pandemic is a bold reminder that no matter who we are or where we come from, we are all in this together. While the Oak team juggle our professional and personal responsibilities, we have been working to refine our operations to uphold and even improve support for our grantee partners. To that end, our Trustees have committed to maintaining our global funding levels through to the end of next year. They have also increased grant-making to help our partners through these unprecedented times.

Our global staff have been working remotely since mid-March and we will continue to practice good social distancing norms under the advice of public health authorities in our various locations. Please know that we remain committed to the mission of our foundation regardless of our physical workspace. We recognise that many of our partners are facing more formidable obstacles in carrying out their missions, so we're doing our small part to ease the burden.

**Our approach is guided by our values:** We seek to be respectful listeners and partners during the uncertainty brought on by the global pandemic. We aspire to be responsive to change, adapt to unexpected consequences from external developments and shift our expectations as necessary.

**Our support is based on the needs and unique situations of our partners:**

In my last letter of 13 March, we asked our partners to reach out to their programme officers to share ways we can be of assistance. We thank our partners for the exchanges they have had with our programme officers. We understand that many of our partners are struggling to support their staff and adapt to changing operational needs at a time when stress levels are high. We also know that this is not easy for the communities we serve and that each one of our partners faces unique circumstances that require individual approaches. We intend to work with our partners to find appropriate solutions.

**Our approach is in line with the US Council on Foundation's pledge and the European Foundation Centre's statement of solidarity:**

We are proud to have committed to support our partners in ways that are guided by the [US Council on Foundation's philanthropy pledge](#) and the [European Foundation Centre's](#) statement of solidarity. Some of these elements may include moving project grants to core grants, modifying agreed outcomes, and adapting what we ask of our partners by postponing reporting requirements, site visits and other demands on their time. We understand that funds may need to be repurposed due to cancelled/postponed programmes, conferences or other activities. We ask our partners to reach out to their programme officers if they are facing challenges with an Oak grant.

**Oak's Trustees have committed an additional USD 6 million to address the Covid-19 global crisis:**

We recognise that organisations face unusual

challenges and unprecedented demands, so additional support is needed to reach our shared hopes for the safety and wellbeing of the communities we serve. In response, Oak Trustees have committed an additional USD 6 million in rapid response grant-making to help our partners address the pandemic.

**We reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding children and communities:**

We remain committed to preventing abuse and promoting the safety, protection, wellbeing and development of children, and even more so during this extraordinary time. We expect our partners to continue with their safeguarding policies and apply those policies to any new programmes and services implemented to respond to the crisis. Please [refer to our website](#) for more information.

**We remain dedicated to providing capacity building and organisational**

**development support to our partners:** To that end, we have developed a page on our website with a curated list of organisational resources, tools and ideas for not-for-profit organisations impacted by Covid-19. We encourage our partners to [visit that page](#) for more information.

Finally, we hope this note provides some reassurance to our partners that our support is unwavering during these challenging times. Together we will face the uncertainty and support our communities.

With my very best regards,

Doug Griffiths

Oak Foundation's President