



Harvard University's Response to COVID-19 in the City of Boston

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to profoundly disrupt the lives of so many, Harvard University remains deeply committed to the wellbeing of the City of Boston and its residents. Whether it be through cutting-edge research, support for health care workers, or resources for neighbors, local businesses and nonprofits, Harvard is engaged in collaborative efforts to respond to evolving needs across the region. These

relationships remain as important as ever, as organizations and institutions work together to help communities overcome the challenges associated with the current public health crisis.

Harvard is grateful to have incredible partners in these efforts, working alongside state, local, and community leaders in the City of Boston and beyond to respond to

the critical needs of the pandemic. The following pages provide examples of the University's response that has unfolded over the past three months. While not exhaustive, the initiatives and programming represent Harvard's continued support and commitment to making a positive impact across Boston.



In March, Harvard launched its COVID-19 Community Resources & Impact site, allowing Boston residents to easily access a range of resources and programs designed for individuals, organizations, and local businesses. Visit:

[COMMUNITY.HARVARD.EDU/
COVID-19-COMMUNITY-RESOURCES](https://community.harvard.edu/covid-19-community-resources)

Harvard University Allston-Brighton Emergency Response Grant

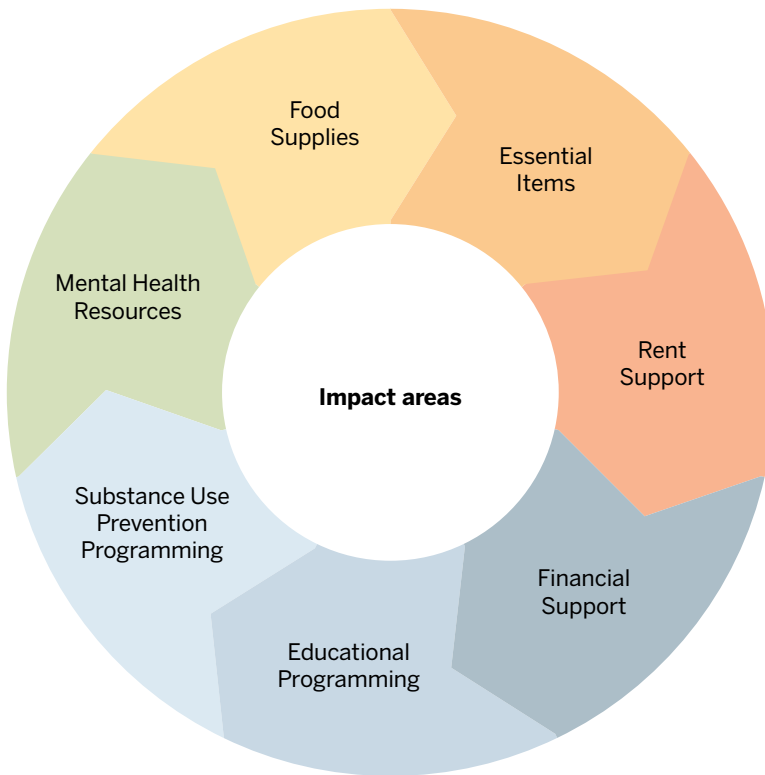
Recognizing the critical role nonprofits play in the City of Boston, Harvard launched a grant program to provide emergency funding to nonprofit organizations serving residents in Allston-Brighton. The [Harvard University Allston-Brighton Emergency Response Grant](#) has allowed organizations to quickly mobilize and help deliver food supplies, medicine, essential items, educational programming, and community resources to thousands of individuals, students, and families in need during this unprecedented public health crisis.

27

Harvard grants to local nonprofits

19,000+

Boston residents reached



Recipient Organizations

Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation
Allston Brighton Neighborhood Opportunity Center
Allston Brighton Substance Abuse Task Force
Allston Village Main Streets
Architectural Heritage Foundation
Brazilian Women's Group
Brazilian Worker Center
Brighton Allston Congregational Church
Brighton Allston Improvement Association
Brighton Main Streets
Brighton Marine
Charles River Community Health
Commonwheels
Cradles to Crayons
Friends of 2Life Communities
Gardner Pilot Academy
Gardner Pilot Academy, Adult Education Program
Granada House
Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Open Door Soup Kitchen and Grocery Bag Program
Oak Square YMCA
Presentation School Foundation Community Center
Road to the Right Track
Saint Anthony Parish Food Pantry
Veronica B. Smith Senior Center
West End House
Winship School Parent Council in partnership with City Connects
Women's Table

Additional University Initiatives & Support

Personal Protective Equipment Donations

Harvard [collected thousands of items of personal protective equipment](#) (PPE) – nitrile gloves, N95 masks, protective eye guards, surgical and procedure face masks, and disposable lab coats – in a coordinated effort across campus. The supplies were delivered to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to be distributed to healthcare providers and hospitals across the state, in addition to direct distribution to Boston Medical Center.

Students from the Harvard Graduate School of Design (GSD) used more than one hundred 3D printers on campus to [produce personal protective equipment](#) for health care workers in Boston area hospitals. Using state-of-the-art fabrication technologies, and expert guidance from across the University, the students produced 2,200 face visors and 3,194 face shields for Massachusetts General Hospital. In addition, students produced patient isolation hoods, another critical piece of PPE designed to contain the virus spread in a clinical setting.

Support for Health Care Workers

To help treat the influx of COVID-19 patients, students from [Harvard Medical School](#) were given the opportunity to graduate early, allowing them to more quickly join the ranks of healthcare providers at a time of great need for local hospitals. Separately, Harvard Medical School lab researchers and postdocs have been working to [unlock a higher capacity for COVID-19 testing](#) at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Under the Harvard Divinity School's (HDS) Master of Divinity degree program, many students serve through field education as intern chaplains in healthcare settings across Boston. During the surge, faculty and staff from HDS volunteered as [tele-chaplains at Boston Hope](#), the COVID-19 field hospital stood up at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center.

Contact Tracing Efforts

Hundreds of Harvard students are helping to [track the virus through local contact tracing efforts](#). As healthcare workers have been working to treat the influx of COVID-19 patients, students from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health have joined local boards of health to help identify and reach out to those who may have come into contact with an individual infected by the novel coronavirus.

COVID-19 Research

Harvard's world class faculty continue to connect with local elected officials and community leaders on various specialized areas of expertise related to the pandemic including, infectious diseases, [social distancing protocols](#), [health care worker wellness](#), crisis management, and [economic impact](#).

In March, Harvard Medical School convened the [Massachusetts Consortium on Pathogen Readiness](#) (MassCPR), a new multi-institutional initiative that aims to stem the tide of COVID-19 and to create a rapid-response system to address future health crises. MassCPR involves hundreds of scientists, clinicians, and public health experts based in Massachusetts and has awarded more than \$16.5 million to support [62 research projects](#), responsive to some of the most pressing challenges of the pandemic.

Support for Harvard Employees

To support members of the Harvard community experiencing economic hardship due to the pandemic, the University established the [COVID-19 Employee Emergency Relief Fund](#). Funding supports employees with temporary housing and other essential needs such as food, travel associated with a personal or family emergency, and medical expenses.

As the University continues to assess the impact of a projected \$750 million shortfall around normal on-campus operations due to the pandemic, Harvard is also committed to minimizing negative economic impact to employees. The University has extended guarantee pay and benefits to directly employed staff whose work has been idled due to COVID-19, such as dining, custodial, and contract workers.

Resources for Local Government

Harvard Kennedy School launched Crisis in Leadership, an initiative to help [answer city leaders' urgent call for reliable information](#) on the spread of COVID-19 and equip them with tools and training to help lead their communities through public health and economic challenges.

Students from Harvard Kennedy School's class on Tech and Innovation in Government facilitated [Boston Inspections 2020](#), a project designed to improve communication between City of Boston agencies and restaurant owners around compliance with food safety regulations.

2020 Census Participation

Recognizing the importance of the United States Census in delivering critical funding to communities across Massachusetts, Harvard is partnering with local government, including the City of Boston, to [support student participation in the 2020 Census](#). As the pandemic continues to shed light on vital public services, the Harvard community is working to support a complete and accurate count.

Free Legal Services for the Community

Harvard Law School's Clinical and Pro Bono Programs continue to offer [free legal services and referrals](#) to low-income community residents. In partnership with the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission COVID-19 Task Force's Pro Bono Committee, the clinics are working to [identify the most pressing needs](#) and bring the school's resources to expand the available legal help. Many of the School's clinics, like the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau and the Legal Services Center's clinics in Jamaica Plain, were already deeply involved in issues related to housing, public benefits, and consumer protection, that have been further compounded by the current public health crisis. The clinics are committed to broad-based advocacy and to work with individuals in addressing community problems brought on by COVID-19.

Educational Resources for Students, Teachers, and Families

In support of local school districts, educators, and students, Harvard continues to work with leadership to ensure access to online resources and tools. The University supported Boston Public Schools by printing 20,000 copies of educational materials through an internal printing service while Harvard Business Publishing hosted a zoom session for educators to provide them with tools for adapting to online teaching. 9,000 educators participated, including high school teachers.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) is offering [guidance for educators, students, and families](#) on how to adapt to disruption, build resilience, keep children engaged, and thrive in an online learning environment. HGSE has also launched a new initiative, [Education Now](#), to respond to the dramatic changes in the field of education in the wake of COVID-19. The initiative provides resources for educators, leaders, and families, shares strategies and perspectives from Harvard faculty, and educational webinars that offers ideas on navigating the many challenges faced by students and their families.

To help community members transition into a virtual work and educational environment, the Harvard Ed Portal organized [several workshops](#) on how to use Zoom for online classes and meetings. Workshops included lessons about organizing techniques, using break-out groups, and leading virtual meetings. Open to anyone interested in gaining proficiency in using the tool, the workshops were also offered in Spanish.

Food Donation

Harvard students made [thousands of donations](#) of non-perishable food items, supplies, clothing, and household goods to nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Furnishing Hope, the YWCA, and the Allston Brighton Food Pantry.

Arts and Culture Programming for the Community

Harvard programming in the arts and culture has continued and expanded online. [Virtual tours](#) and [educational programming](#) offered by the Harvard Art Museums and the Harvard Museums of Science and Culture are open to all who want to explore the exhibits and immerse themselves in the stories they have to tell. The Harvard Office for the Arts offered [Pause for Art: Creative Moments from Harvard](#), a series of artistic inspiration for those looking to find a moment of beauty, comfort and connection.

To help support local artists, musicians, makers, and teachers in their artistic work deeply impacted by the pandemic, the Harvard Ed Portal launched an online [Pop-Up! Portal Art Market](#) to help boost the livelihoods of a network of creatives—many from the Allston and Brighton neighborhood. One hundred percent of the purchase proceeds go to support local artists.

Harvard Ed Portal Resources for the Community

The [Harvard Ed Portal](#) is offering resources to support the community, including workshops and information sessions for small businesses managing COVID-19; market-driven programs and workshops for individuals looking for career and professional development opportunities; and weekly yoga sessions for residents.