



For Immediate Release

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Local Nonprofit Provides Emergency Assistance Funds to Help Stabilize Cobb Families Impacted by COVID-19

Marietta, GA (April 17, 2020) – [The Center for Family Resources](#) (CFR) announced today that it has received funding to provide emergency financial assistance for Cobb County families, including assistance with rent, mortgage and utility payments to ensure housing stability. The CFR is providing access to basic needs for families who currently fall below 200% of the Federal Poverty guidelines. Funding has been provided through grants from Cobb Community Foundation through the Cobb COVID-19 Response Fund, Cobb EMC Foundation, and the Greater Atlanta COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund.

“Stabilizing families and providing a safety net during challenging times ties directly into our mission,” says **Lee Freeman-Smith, Vice President of Operations for the CFR**. “This critical funding will immediately impact families in critical need of services throughout Cobb County. With more than 22 million Americans filing for unemployment and lower wage earners disproportionately impacted, the need for financial assistance will be tremendous,” she continued.

Currently, the CFR has over \$170,000 in financial assistance available. However, it anticipates the requests for assistance are easily triple that amount. Many of those impacted were already living on a limited income, and any reduction to hours and pay can cause a huge disruption to a family’s budget. The CFR serves over 12,000 people a year and helps more than 700 families with housing and rent assistance. In the past two weeks, they have received over 160 calls for assistance related to COVID-19. Those calls are in addition to the inquiries from individuals who were already in need of services prior to the pandemic.



Melanie Kagan, CEO at the CFR, adds, “Keeping families stably-housed and with access to basic needs is imperative. Our goal is to help families stay as current as possible with rent and mortgage payments. What we don’t want is for these families to be 2-4 months behind in paying these expenses, and have no way of climbing out of that hole. The financial impacts on our community and many others are going to be severe.”

For people seeking assistance, contact the CFR at (770) 428-2601. All inquiries are being taken over the phone, and the agency is not open to walk-ins in an effort to maintain a safe environment for staff and clients. Anyone who would like to **donate to the emergency assistance fund at the CFR can make their tax-deductible donation at www.thecfr.org/give.**

About The Center for Family Resources

Since 1960, the Center for Family Resources (CFR) has annually helped more than 12,000 low-income families with temporary financial and food assistance, housing, and employment and education services. By “empowering families to help themselves,” the staff at the CFR is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by helping families acquire the resources they need to become independent and self-sufficient. For more information visit www.TheCFR.org.

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