April 24, 2020

YCD Interim Shelter in Place Update

Since the onset of the Shelter in Place mandate, YCD continues to passionately serve our entire District-10 community. We have been providing remote services, supporting our clients since March 13th. In addition to maintaining over 20 programs and initiatives, YCD is actively responding to the most urgent needs of our residents through our COVID-19 community response relief efforts.

At 100 employees strong, YCD is reflective of the community we serve, with over 40% of our staff residing within the district. Together we have entered a new temporary normal, which has challenged the way we all work. Through this process, our team has demonstrated an incredible level of professionalism and commitment to public service. Within days of the Shelter in Place mandate, our teams made a swift transition from in-person to remote service delivery, adapting immediately to a completely new way of working.

As a front-line service provider, YCD bears witness to the debilitating impacts of the pandemic within District 10. As an organization, we have pivoted to expand our support within the communities we serve by leveraging the systems and processes we have in place to immediately mobilize and address resident needs.

Our current response relief efforts address six (6) top priorities: 1) Basic Necessities 2) Food  3) Connectivity 4) Housing 5) Childcare and 6) Transportation.

**Basic Necessities Purchases via Gift Cards:** The pandemic has resulted in unbearable economic hardships that make it extremely challenging to purchase even the basic necessities. To date, YCD has safely distributed over 200 Safeway gift cards with an additional 200 to be distributed in the next 2 weeks.

**Prepared Meal Delivery:** To address food scarcity, YCD has launched a meal delivery program. Working alongside local catering partners, restaurateurs, and key community-based organizations, we leverage our current infrastructure to distribute hot meals for up to 750 individuals per day and nearly 2,550 a week throughout the Bayview.

**Connectivity:** COVID-19 has emphasized the pre-existing gap in digital connectivity in our community. YCD is providing laptops and tablets to community members to help close this divide.
In addition, many of our in-person programming is now available online, including job training, educational tutorials and one-on-one customer support via Zoom.

**Eviction Prevention Assistance:** As job loss continues to rise within our community, residents are facing an increased threat of eviction and displacement. YCD is actively working with City organizations to develop a strategic response to mitigate the economic impacts of COVID-19 and guard against residents being pushed into homelessness.

**Childcare:** School closures have resulted in additional cost burdens upon families with school-age children. Many households are not equipped with the necessary resources to support all-day childcare. We are working with foundations and community partners to address these challenges.

**Transportation Support:** Citywide, there are limited public transportation services and routes in addition to COVID-19 related restrictions. To support essential trips to the grocery store, pharmacy and medical appointment, we are exploring alternatives including taxi and delivery services, allowing residents, particularly those at high risk to avoid exposure.

As we look to the days ahead, we already anticipate the long-term impacts of COVID-19. YCD is working proactively to mitigate the trauma, learning loss, housing displacement and job loss that has devastated our community. Our leadership team is actively engaged in the process of updating our strategic plan to address needs in the aftermath of the pandemic as well as develop pipelines to careers in high demand sectors.

YCD has the honor of continuing to serve the beautifully resilient District 10 community. This would not be possible without the overwhelming support of friends, donors and partners both within the community and the City & County of San Francisco. Whether it be the gift of time from volunteers, support through funding or the trust of committed partnerships, it is during these times we understand the necessity of community and the power of true collective impact. It is in this spirit that YCD will continue to champion these priorities for our community.

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