

Fahe's Response and Future Plans to COVID-19

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Fahe is providing relief for Appalachian families already impacted by the crisis, access to financial resources for vulnerable communities, and future-focused leadership and advocacy for our Network of community-based nonprofits so that they can concentrate on what they do best: serving the people who rely upon them for food, shelter, medical assistance, and other life-saving services.

In times like these, the Fahe Network has shown up time and time again to ensure the needs of our communities are being met.

During the Great Recession of 2008, Fahe was a leader in investing \$17 Million of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to provide life-changing and sustaining projects in Appalachia. During the 2019 government shutdown, we created an emergency fund to ensure Members who needed support could remain in business as necessary government funds were delayed. In the summer of 2019, we helped establish a paycheck fund for coal miners in Eastern Kentucky directly affected by the Blackjewel bankruptcy.

Fahe Members have boots on the ground across the region and are adept at understanding and responding to their communities' needs. Because we are a network of community-based practitioners, we are experts in how to strategically apply each and every dollar to ensure maximum efficiency and impact when serving our communities.

With support from funders, investors, and the government, the Fahe Membership works to be strong and provide stability for the region during its normal time of need, and doubly so when we face a crisis such as government shutdowns, the great economic recession, natural disasters, and other times of uncertainty.

Now, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fahe Network is once again providing leadership and relief to our communities. Our immediate responses are:

- We have created an emergency fund at zero percent interest to support any Members who need it, to allow them to continue serving their vulnerable communities.
- For the families we serve, Fahe Loan Servicing is providing forbearance plans to borrowers to prevent delinquencies and possible foreclosures.
- For our neighbors in Appalachia and our brethren in other persistent poverty areas of the country, we are advocating for state- and federal- resources that work for rural communities and preparing our infrastructure and network of practitioners to deliver stimulus funding.
- We are establishing an **Emergency Stabilization Fund** that will facilitate the flow of no/low interest loans and grants into the region where it is needed most.

The Fahe Membership is able to support our communities in part thanks to great partners across the country. In times of crisis we expend more resources than normal, which can hamper our ability to impact the region at scale in the future. Thankfully, we have strong allies who invest in Fahe and share our common goal of doing right by our fellow man. As our partners step up their commitments to the region during the COVID-19 pandemic, they will help us shoulder the new expense and allow Fahe to have the capacity to truly impact the future.

We have weathered many storms to provide shelter and aid for the people of Appalachia and as the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic passes, we will be here to provide leadership, stability, and opportunity during the recovery period.

Thank you for your support of Fahe. Please join our [Mailing List](#) to stay informed of our current and future efforts in serving Appalachia during the COVID-19 pandemic.