

US Program Covid-19 Response

Schools are closed in all ChildFund US Program target areas, VA schools are closed for the remainder of the school year, MS until at least April 17 and TX until at least April 6. Our Local Partners are closed while schools are out but coordinating with schools to help ensure that families participate in "grab and go" free lunch and other learning services. They are also exploring alternative options for program services while school is out. As of March 23, there have been 24 reported Covid-19 cases in the Jackson, MS metropolitan area, 30 cases in the greater Richmond area and 8 cases in the Rio Grande Valley, TX. To date we have no Covid-19 reports among our enrolled/participating children. We will continue to update program options along with more specific Covid-19 data through our SitRep as they evolve.

ChildFund's Texas team (includes 3 ChildFund employees, 8 contract staff and 14 AmeriCorps members) is working partially remote, providing both teleservice and in-person services. All direct services will be provided by staff on a volunteer basis and will be "no-contact", observing the less than 10 people in one place with a 6 ft-bubble spacing.

Bookmobile: (in-person) (beginning Apr 6) ChildFund staff will travel to each of our 10 target communities (including communities of our AmeriCorps school sites) and drop-off books and learning packets (SEL activities and supplies such as pencils, colors, stickers, Arts and crafts) to students in these communities. Depending on the length of the school closures, we will do this on a regular basis. In addition to traveling with the bookmobile, AmeriCorps members will also assist with a) sorting and labeling books, b) printing off activity and resource materials, c) assembling learning packets and supplies, d) labeling postcards, e) loading up vehicles.

Family Outreach: Our Community Mobilizers are currently calling families enrolled in our program to check in with them and see how they are doing, provide tips on helping children manage stress and stay safe, give encouragement, find out what their needs are and if they have access to internet (for purposes of on-line learning) and gather CVS data. We will also notify them of our Bookmobile schedule for dropping off books, learning packets/supplies, DFCs and other non-food items (such as household cleaners, hygiene products, games, etc.). Postcards will also be sent to families notifying them of the drop-off services.

Curbside lunch deliveries (considered "essential" service) (in-person) – AmeriCorps members can assist at one of our school sites to facilitate "grab n' go" lunches as well as provide a book/learning packet and encouragement to children and families. We are coordinating with schools to determine most vulnerable communities where we may include "grab in go" lunches as part of our own curbside Bookmobile deliveries.

SEL Unit Plans: AmeriCorps members are pairing up (virtually) and reviewing selected children's books (with SEL themes) to brainstorm/develop unit plans (discussions questions, arts activities, music, games, supplies list, etc.) based on those books. Unit plans will be shared with the team and will be incorporated into upcoming (summer or beyond) programming.

On-line learning: Staff are currently researching a) on-line learning (and entertainment) resources (i.e. scholastic story time, virtual field trips, etc.) to be compiled and shared with families, b) the best and safest video conferencing options i.e. Zoom, Google Hangouts, etc. so c) AmeriCorps members can continue to conduct our Literacy Circle group sessions at a scheduled time for students to join on-line.

Video testimonials: AmeriCorps members will video their testimonials (using ChildFund provided tablets) and upload to Google Drive on why they should do a term of service. These will be used for future AmeriCorps member recruitment.

AmeriCorps Member Spotlights: Pair members up to interview each other for an AmeriCorps member spotlight.

Reflection Journals – AmeriCorps Members reflect on their service experience during the Covid-19 situation.

Team Check-ins via teleconference platform to ensure all team members are safe and engaged in service. These check-ins will include “self-care” resources and exercises.

“Children on the Move” Strategies: TBD