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Responding to COVID-19 in community: an update from Knight Foundation

Alberto Ibargüen and Sam Gill, Knight Foundation [web@knightfoundation.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:29 PM

To: Steve Johnston

KNIGHT FOUNDATION

Dear Sarah:

During this extraordinary and unprecedented situation, we are writing to explain what we're doing at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to support grantees and assist with the emergency relief underway in the 26 American communities where Knight operates, including yours. There is much we still don't know about how COVID-19 will affect the communities where we live, although we know at this point the impact will be profound and that we at Knight will respond by continuing to support informed and engaged communities.

Supporting Knight Grantees

In light of changed circumstances, we want to be reasonable and flexible. If you are a grantee, please contact your relationship manager immediately, if you haven't already, if you wish to suggest changes to your grant agreement with Knight. These changes might be extensions of time, or reallocation of funds, for example. We will also consider converting project funds to general operating funds on a case-by-case basis.

Community Response

In the 26 American communities where Knight functions, we will join others providing immediate relief. In Charlotte, we will contribute \$500,000 to support [the COVID-19 Response Fund](#). Since we believe it's critical that communities stay informed, we will also separately consider ideas to help residents stay informed and connected.

If you have a proposal or question about the COVID-19 Response Fund, please email [Laura Clark](#) at the United Way or [Brian Collier](#) at the Foundation for the Carolinas.

For any other questions about Knight's efforts in Charlotte, please [email Charles Thomas](#), Knight's Charlotte program director.

Standing with You

We each have a role to play in the protection of individuals, organizations

and communities. Every member of the Knight staff recognizes that. We understand that your first priority is to ensure health and safety so we can contain and beat this disease. You can expect us to continue to communicate and adjust our approach as the situation develops, as we hear from grantees and others in the community, and as we all learn more.

Thank you for all that you do. Stay safe.

Alberto Ibargüen, president
Sam Gill, senior vice president and chief program officer

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