

# HUDSON WEBBER FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hudson-Webber Foundation announces over \$4 million in new grants to support COVID-19 response initiatives, small businesses, and criminal justice reform**

DETROIT – Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, Hudson-Webber Foundation’s Board of Trustees has approved new grants totaling over \$4 million, supporting projects that reflect the Detroit-based foundation’s commitment to improving the lives of all Detroiters through built environment, policy and research, community and economic development, and building safe and just communities.

Major support was approved and provided for organizations mounting emergency relief efforts for individuals, organizations and students impacted by the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. Modifications to several grants from previous years were approved to reflect community needs and challenges influenced by the ongoing crisis. These modifications included advanced payments, easing the prescribed use to support operations, and extending reporting requirements.

“Being nimble and responsive to the needs of organizations and small businesses hit hard by the economic fall-out of the pandemic is a vital part of strengthening the diverse communities that make up the fabric of this city,” said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation. “We will continue to adapt and intensify our efforts to help ensure that Detroit moves forward.”

In March 2020, Hudson-Webber Foundation Trustees approved an initial grant of \$1 million to launch the Michigan Justice Fund, an initiative designed to advance effective and equitable justice policy and practice throughout Michigan. As a founding funder and partner in the Fund’s development, which is housed at the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Hudson-

Webber's support has contributed to the Fund's first distribution of grants to 26 organizations across the state.

A complete list of the Michigan Justice Fund's grantees and funders to date is [available here](#).

Since early spring 2020, organizations receiving new and continuing support from Hudson-Webber include: the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, The Detroit Public Schools Foundation, the Live 6 Alliance, United Way for Southeastern Michigan, the Southwest Detroit Business Association, Develop Detroit, Inc., Jefferson East, Inc., The Tuxedo Project, Invest Detroit Foundation, the Downtown Detroit Partnership, Wayne State University Center for Behavioral Health and Justice, the Detroit Justice Center, the Michigan Nonprofit Association, and Midtown Detroit, Inc.

The list of grantees approved since spring 2020 includes:

### **COVID-19 Relief Efforts**

- [Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan](#) has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to support the NEI Small Business COVID-19 Relief Fund, established to provide immediate funding, offset loan payments, and leverage the coordinated system of small business support that exists in Detroit.
- [Detroit Public Schools Foundation](#) has been awarded a \$100,000 grant to support the Connected Futures initiative, which will provide Detroit Public School students and families with devices, connectivity and technology support to continue to access learning during the COVID-19 school closure period and beyond.
- [United Way for Southeastern Michigan](#) has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to support the COVID-19 Community Response Fund that has been established to rapidly deploy resources to community-based organizations offering emergency relief to families and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in Detroit and the region. Additionally, the United Way has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support the Tech Fund which will provide Detroit youth, specifically students enrolled in charter schools, with devices, connectivity, and technology support to continue to access learning during the COVID-19 disruption to traditional in-school instruction and beyond.
- [The Live 6 Alliance](#), [Midtown Detroit Inc.](#), and [Southwest Detroit Business Association](#) were previously approved grants to support neighborhood stewardship and façade improvement programs which have now each been supplemented with \$50,000 to

support their efforts with small businesses affected by COVID-19-related disruption, and to accommodate anticipated seasonal challenges.

### **Built Environment**

- [Develop Detroit Inc.](#) has been awarded a \$750,000 grant to support operating capacity for and capitalization of affordable housing and community development activities in Detroit.
- [Jefferson East, Inc.](#) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant to support initial implementation of the Jefferson-Chalmers Targeted Redevelopment Area.

### **Community and Economic Development**

- [The Tuxedo Project](#) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to support general operations to advance neighborhood revitalization efforts and community support.
- [Invest Detroit Foundation](#) has been awarded a \$1 million grant to support general operations to enhance and sustain the administration of real estate and business development activities in Detroit, including the Strategic Neighborhood Fund.

### **Safe and Just Communities**

- [Wayne State University Center for Behavioral Health and Justice](#) has been awarded a \$150,000 grant to support a three-year evaluation of early-intervention risk assessment and diversion practices for the Wayne County juvenile justice process.
- [Detroit Justice Center](#) has been awarded a \$125,000 grant to assist Detroiters with justice system contact and overcome barriers to opportunity while engaging the community in redesigning a more equitable justice system.

### **Policy & Research**

- [Michigan Nonprofit Association](#), on behalf of a partnership between JFM Consulting Group and Data Driven Detroit, has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to support the development and implementation of the Neighborhood Vitality Index, a community-driven assessment of neighborhood quality of life to inform future neighborhood investments and improvement efforts.

**ABOUT the Hudson-Webber Foundation**

The Hudson-Webber Foundation's origins date back to 1939 with major contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Webber, other members of the Webber family and The J.L. Hudson Company. The foundation is governed by a 16-member board of trustees, with assets of approximately \$175 million, and has contributed over \$200 million to improve the quality of life in Detroit. The mission areas of the foundation include support of community and economic development, built environment, safe and just communities, and arts and culture.

To learn more about the Hudson-Webber Foundation, visit [www.hudson-webber.org](http://www.hudson-webber.org).

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