



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2021

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Hudson-Webber Foundation commits \$1.7 million in new grants with continued support for social, economic recovery from COVID-19 in Detroit's communities

DETROIT – Hudson-Webber Foundation's Board of Trustees has approved new grants totaling over \$1.7 million in February and March 2021, enabling new and ongoing projects that have adapted to address the evolving needs of Detroit's communities while enhancing the impact of the Foundation's traditional funding strategies.

While staying true to the Foundation's core mission to improve the lives of all Detroiters, this early 2021 slate of grantees represents the Foundation's focused and intentional approach to respond to the emerging needs of vulnerable populations throughout the city, awarding grants that ensure economic stability for Detroit small businesses, support organizations best situated to rapidly and equitably deploy resources for basic human needs and services, and extend the reach of community-based organizations working to implement solutions that foster equity and opportunity as the region moves toward recovery from the new and existing challenges exacerbated by the pandemic.

In February and March 2021, the list of organizations receiving new and continuing support from Hudson-Webber includes: Co.Act, Community Connections, Community Development Advocates for Detroit, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, Detroit Future City, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network, Invest Detroit Foundation, TechTown Detroit, United Way For Southeast Michigan, and Wayne County Community Action Agency (Wayne Metro).

Additionally, Hudson-Webber has issued grants that provide resources to government and community groups to better collaborate on solutions for the city's population of returning citizens, and to create a data dashboard for agencies and organizations to share, analyze and offer public information that will be used to reduce recidivism, increase diversion and alternatives to incarceration, and provide support to the broader jail population. The creation of this database and its implementation follows from recommendations made in [a report on Wayne](#)

[County jails issued by the Vera Institute of Justice in May 2020](#) funded by the Hudson-Webber Foundation.

"The Foundation has adapted our approach to the current moment to help meet the immediate needs of those hit hardest by the pandemic," said Melanca Clark, president and CEO of Hudson-Webber Foundation. "What's not changed is our intentionality around deploying investments that center equity and support Detroiters to innovate and implement the collaborative solutions that will succeed in moving us forward."

The list of projects supported by this round of grants includes:

COVID-19 Relief Efforts

- [TechTown Detroit](#) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to support [Co.Act](#) and [Community Development Advocates for Detroit's \(CDAD\)](#) community development mini-grant programs, supporting neighborhood and community organizations throughout Detroit as they respond to needs resulting from the pandemic's economic impact.
- [United Way for Southeast Michigan \(UWSEM\)](#) has been awarded \$150,000 to support pandemic-related relief efforts administered through their Winter Relief Fund, the [Family Independence Initiative](#), and the [Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation](#). UWSEM has also been awarded \$21,000 to support the [Here to Help Foundation](#), providing direct services to the increased number of returning citizens released due to the pandemic.
- [Wayne Metropolitan Action Agency \(Wayne Metro\)](#) has been awarded \$50,000 to support [Community Connections'](#) direct relief efforts for community leaders, grassroots organizations and childcare providers related to COVID relief and recovery.

Community and Economic Development

- [Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan \(CFSEM\)](#) has been awarded \$600,000 over four years to support the work of their [New Economy Initiative's](#) ongoing programs to serve diverse, small businesses in Detroit through enhanced networking, capacity building, funding and communications.

- [Detroit Future City \(DFC\)](#) has been awarded \$200,000 over two years to strengthen economic equity for Detroit residents through the work of their [Center for Equity, Engagement and Research](#).
- [Invest Detroit Foundation](#) has been awarded \$500,000 over ten years to support the Detroit Small Business Recovery Fund's efforts to provide emergency response loans to Detroit's small businesses and non-profits as they continue to re-open, stabilize and grow, with a particular focus on serving minority, women, Detroit residents, and undercapitalized business owners.

Safe and Just Communities

- [Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network \(DWIHN\)](#) has been awarded \$137,500 to support the creation of an integrated data dashboard that will assist practitioners from the Wayne County Sherriff's Office and the DWIHN to analyze and share jail data, to better identify individuals for diversion and services, and to help stakeholders develop better policies and practices that serve the broader jail population.

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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 \$190 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.