



COVID-19 Grantee Spotlight: Elberton Youth Development Commission



The Elberton Youth Development Commission (EYDC) has played a major role in the community, especially in helping reduce the impact that COVID-19 has had on the black and brown community in Elbert County. EYDC has taken this opportunity to continue supporting our youth and their families through this pandemic.

"We are actively working on empowering our youth and parents in building self-esteem by building trusting relationships where we can share our personal experiences and subsequent lessons in becoming self-supporting self-advocates."

Bobby Hunt
Lead Organizer, EYDC

Since the closing of public schools in March of 2020, the EYDC has utilized social-distancing guidelines to **open its facilities for school-aged children to access WiFi for completing homework assignments and reaching other educational goals.** EYDC is working diligently with the Elbert County School System to make certain that each student will receive the education and supplies needed to have a successful school year. EYDC will also be offering back-to-school supplies to students who were currently enrolled in the leadership program.

EYDC has also worked with the Georgia Department of Public Health in order to facilitate a month-long free COVID-19 testing site here in the County. EYDC is consistently keeping its constituents informed and encouraging COVID-19 testing. EYDC has remained available to the community to transport individuals to and from other free testing sites in the state of Georgia. Prior to this testing site, Elbert County had registered 79 COVID-19 cases. Following the increased testing, our numbers increased significantly. Currently, there are over 300 COVID-19 cases in Elbert County.

On June 6, 2020, **the EYDC played an intricate part in Elberton's First Peaceful Protest/Black Lives Matter March.** The staging area was at the facility and EYDC

assisted with the sack lunch for participants afterwards. **EYDC also sponsored a food bank at the facility grounds, feeding over 150 families in the process.**

The EYDC has more plans to assist the community during this pandemic. EYDC plans to host more food bank drives, continue to offer free WiFi to assist those students who are not returning to the traditional classroom setting, and remain steadily available for any of our community's youth and parental needs.

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare societal inequities that Southern Partners Fund has fought since it's incorporation. SPF's capacity for enabling its grantee partners to build coordinated rapid response teams in their communities is well documented. SPF's grantee organizations rely on Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal grants to identify their most vulnerable populations and connect them to agencies and services that can help. In turn, vulnerable populations in these communities trust SPF grantee organizations to provide them with the best support available. In many communities, our grantee partners are their first responders.

COVID-19 is currently the primary focus for the Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal while SPF aggressively seeks new funding partners. To date, SPF has raised over **\$4M out of a \$10M funding goal** and is already issuing its first round of grants to partner organizations throughout the rural Southeast.

For more information on Elberton Youth Development Commission, or on contributing to SPF's Justice Fund for Disaster Relief and Renewal, please click below to visit our dedicated COVID-19 page or contact us by phone with the contact details provided below.

[More Info](#)

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