



**Education  
Partnerships  
Coalition**  
*Minnesota*

## RESPONSES TO COVID-19

**Austin Aspires - Austin**

**Cradle 2 Career - Rochester**

**Every Hand Joined - Red Wing**

**Generation Next - Twin Cities**

**Northside Achievement Zone - Minneapolis**

**Northfield Promise - Northfield**

**Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood - Saint Paul**

**United Way of Central Minnesota - Saint Cloud Area**





# EPC Responses to COVID-19

*Please see below for ways that members of the Education Partnerships Coalition are serving children and families across Minnesota throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. If you are interested in partnering with the Coalition on Coronavirus relief efforts, please contact Sarah Clarke at 952.201.4654 or [sclarke@hyldenlaw.com](mailto:sclarke@hyldenlaw.com).*

## Stopping the Spread of COVID-19

- **Cradle2Career** in Rochester provided fabric to members of the Ethiopian Community to create masks for high-risk individuals. Cradle2Career has also provided COVID-19 resource cards and translated Olmstead County materials in three languages.
- The **Northside Achievement Zone** gave out over 800 Black Panther-inspired face masks for families in need. Additionally, the Northside Achievement Zone hired outreach workers to give out an additional 700 face masks, 500 bottles of sanitizer, and 700 culturally appropriate flyers educating the Northside community on the importance of wearing face masks.
- **United Way of Central Minnesota** has been funding demographic-specific and multilingual communication to support culturally-specific messaging to meet the needs of St. Cloud's immigrant communities, in addition to leading a campaign promoting mask distribution.

## Creating Safety Nets for Families

- **Northfield Promise** is leading a data-driven approach to ensure families have access to meals and devices. Additionally, a separate project of Northfield Promise has distributed over 1,700 family meal boxes, with each box containing 20 nonperishable food items.
- The **Northside Achievement Zone** has raised \$230,000 to date to provide grants to families for needs like diapers, gas, and school supplies. The Northside Achievement Zone is partnering with housing organizations to create a rent stabilization fund for families.
- **Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood** is providing transportation vouchers and other resources. They have also disseminated \$7,500 in funds to families to meet specific needs. Furthermore, Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood is raising dollars for rental assistance and has already secured more than \$18,000.

## Addressing Family Mental Health Needs

- **Cradle2Career** has developed webinars on mental health supports for youth, how to support for mental health concerns, and how parents can help students during distance learning. Furthermore, Cradle2Career is exploring a partnership with the Minnesota Parent Teacher Association to offer Mental Health First Aid to parents and caregivers during the summer.
- In addition to engaging various community partners, **Every Hand Joined** in Red Wing has facilitated meetings for the Goodhue County Mental Health Coalition to expand access to mental health services for high-need families.
- **United Way of Central Minnesota** has increased funding to the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center to provide additional services, trained community navigators working with families to improve mental health, and is supporting Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota in individualized outreach to students.

## Supporting Distance Learning

- **Northfield Promise** helped connect nearly 100 low-income families with Internet. They also worked with Northfield Public Schools and the City of Northfield to map Internet needs and develop community-centered distance learning solutions.
- **The Northside Achievement Zone** provided 250 Chromebooks for families to support online learning for students, as well as assist parents with virtual job training and parent education classes.
- The **Saint Paul Promise Neighborhood** Education Pathway Coordinators are working with school liaisons on family engagement efforts through email, phone calls, newsletters and translation services. These navigators help families with a various issues, including accessing Internet and understanding how to use distance learning tools like Seesaw.

## Partnering with Community

- **Austin Aspires** organized weekly food distribution by securing donations, spaces and volunteers in partnership with Salvation Army, United Way, Women’s Leadership Initiative, Austin Public Schools, Pacelli Catholic Schools and Impact Austin. Austin Aspires has also provided materials and supplies for daycare workers caring for the children of essential workers.
- **Generation Next** in the Twin Cities has been working closely with partners and organizations to distribute timely and useful resources for families dealing with the impacts of COVID-19. Generation Next has launched a webpage with COVID-19 resources for families: <https://gennextmsp.org/covid-19-resources/>.
- The **Northside Achievement Zone** is hosting a series of webinars to educate stakeholders on the impact COVID-19 is having on the community. Webinar topics include the work happening to address the crisis, the lived experiences of families, educators, and other partners during this time, and the role that place-based strategy has in addressing COVID-19 issues. Additionally, the webinars are prioritizing ways to leverage this moment to create real racial equity. Furthermore, the Northside Achievement Zone been asked by the CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone to participate in a national movement to secure resources and attention to address the needs of the African American community in select cities.

