

## FCM Final Report



**Saskatoon Interagency Response to COVID19 (SIRC)**  
**Final Report – CMA Foundation**  
**COVID-19 Community Response Fund for**  
**Vulnerable Populations**  
**(via the City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Community Foundation)**  
**January 21, 2021.**

The following is a brief outline of the indicators of success and testimonials for the achievement of the outcomes associated with the generous funding from the CMA Foundation via the City of Saskatoon.

**Indicators for Success – as outlined in the proposal:**

**1. Distribution of PPE & personal Hygiene products (budgeted \$78,500.00)**

*Indicator: number of people and agencies receiving required PPE and personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, water and food related supplies*

For the duration of the reporting period, SIRC focused on the consistent, collaborative and effective procurement and distribution of PPE, hygiene products, cleaning supplies, water and food related supplies.

On a monthly basis SIRC provides the following supports to over 30 community agencies who would otherwise struggle with procurement and access/delivery of the required for COVID-normal operations items:

Item	Monthly budget	Total number of agencies serviced	Comments
Routine PPE	\$23,000.00	35 agencies that get a variety of supports as needed	Includes PPE for staff, cleaning supplies and other COVID-normal response supplies
Outbreak PPE	\$8,000.00	10 agencies with intensive outbreak needs	Includes face shields, gowns and other high need items with high burn rates during COVID outbreak
Masks for clients	\$3,000.00	50,000+	Large donation of masks for clients has set up the community to provide 1M masks (non-medical grade) to people in need
Food containers	\$10,000.00	5 agencies serving 3000 people per day	COVID normal protocols have pushed dine in services for many community partners to a take-away model. Single use food containers have become a high priority to ensure food access in Saskatoon
Bottled water	\$7,000.00	6-8 core agencies with additional as needed	COVID normal requires many of the agencies to provide access to clean drinking water with bottled water. This need was anticipated to drop over winter, however that was not the case.

Funding provided by this grant supported almost 2 months of intensive supports for PPE and critical supplies. This created stability at SIRC to leverage other funds from community, government agencies, local philanthropists and anonymous donors.

### Testimonials:

*“Shifting a soup kitchen that serves up to 1000 meals (cafeteria-style) each day to a take-away delivery model was no easy feat. The Saskatoon Friendship Inn is truly grateful for the logistical and financial support provided through the SIRC to keep our staff safe with PPE, keep meals moving with take-away containers, and keep bottled water flowing to our vulnerable guests who no longer had access to tap water in public buildings and fountains. Our pandemic response was challenging, but the burden was truly lightened by the immense support from the SIRC and the broader community that wrapped their arms and dollars around us all.”*

- Sandra Kary, Executive Director Saskatoon Friendship Inn

*“Without the support of the SIRC, many agencies would not have had the capacity to find funding, secure accounts with large suppliers of PPE, or work their own way through the myriad of public health orders and re-opening phases. To have the support of a well-organized, community focused group took the strain and stress off agencies so they could focus on their mission, to work toward a more just and poverty free community.”*

- Laurie O'Connor, Executive Director  
Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre

## 2. Interagency Response coordination of Activities (budgeted \$30,000.00)

*Indicator: successful coordination of activities, and open lines of communications between the partner agencies.*

Over the course of the reporting period the SIRC team worked to respond to the constantly changing pressures associated with phase 1 surge, maintenance mode and re-open planning, Phase 2 surge and community outbreak preparedness/response. During these phases there were over 35 staffed positions that predominantly came from the secondment of positions within agencies like the City of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Health Authority, Saskatoon Tribal Council, various community based organizations and local boards. In addition, there are 2 external leadership staff who worked full time as 3<sup>rd</sup> party coordinators to pull the work together and act as a conduit for all of the decision making processes. These positions were partially funded by these funds (representing approximately 25% of the total cost of this leadership).

This external leadership created opportunities for the SIRC team to build an external membership of over 200 community partners and a more internal – connected to the work and service delivery model partnership of over 65 community partners. Through this reporting period, the SIRC team became a go-to place for up-to-date and accurate next steps, supports for outbreaks, research supports and COVID-normal PPE/critical supply operations supports and funding. (Refer to Appendix 1 for an example of the Incident Command Structure that was initiated in phase 2 surge planning)

### Testimonials:

*The funding that they City provided via FCM was instrumental in enabling the Saskatoon Inter –Agency Response to COVID-19 (SIRC) to continue offering critical support to agencies that serve a people entrenched in food and housing insecurities. It allowed the response to scale up and quickly supply needs to agencies that were living with the impacts of a surge of COVID-19 cases as well as outbreaks. Two people who have been integral within this response – even prior to the formal emergency response structure being activated – are*

*the 2 3<sup>rd</sup> party coordinators. Both have been instrumental in understanding the barriers faced by this population, as well as the realities and system gaps that the agencies, who serve this population, face. It has been through their institutional knowledge of systems, skills and long standing relationships with the agencies that has allowed the SIRC to work both nimbly as well as effectively here in Saskatoon.*

- Cora Janzen, Health and Safety Officer with SIRC

### **3. Connecting Agencies & Logistics Support (\$3,500.00 budgeted)**

*Indicator: coordinated efforts among community agencies and connecting vulnerable clients with appropriate agencies, for their specific needs*

An integral part of the SIRC response was managed by the small but coordinated logistics team. Working on up to the minute research for PPE standards, procurement of essential supplies, building relationships to leverage supports and access to items, creating safe protocols for distribution of materials, ensuring that no agency went without what was needed, even in times of high outbreak stress, holiday hours and emergency after hours timeframes.

#### **Testimonials:**

*"We are so thankful for the deliveries of bottled water to give to clients with the take-out meals -- we can't do in-house dining because of COVID, but it is so important to still have some kind of meal program for clients. And a couple times when we ran out of water before the next delivery, the SIAR asked another agency to share their extra inventory of bottled water -- and staff from that agency brought it over in a truck the same day!"*

- Community partner agency

*"The deliveries of PPE and supplies were a life-saver for us -- one headache we didn't have to worry about!"*

- Community shelter agency

*"We didn't just get the PPE and supplies -- we always got an explanation of why we got what we got. It was very comforting to know that someone was making sure product safety standards were being met!"*

- Community member from a food security agency

*"We had a woman come into the isolation hotel who had no supports in Saskatoon. She was admitted to ASIS in the evening and was clearly distressed at the idea of being unable to leave. PHR Staff connected with her and asked what would help her feel safe and calm -- she told us that she wanted to smudge right away, talk to an elder and start making a plan tomorrow for discharge after hotel. Staff procured and provided sage and helped the woman smudge, then connecting her with First Nations Metis Health Services Elder Supports. Her mental state instantly improved; she felt calm and was able to eat and rest. The next day PHR staff helped her apply for income assistance, submitted housing applications and referred her to ongoing community case management. This woman came into ASIS with no income, no housing, and no supports. After 3 days she had stable income, housing on the horizon and a multitude of medical, cultural and social supports in place. It's amazing what 3 days can do when community comes together."*

- Client story shared by Prairie Harm Reduction (PHR)

### **4. Communications Activities (\$5,000.00 budgeted)**

*Indicator: number of people and agencies receiving required supports and services*

Ensuring that community partners, agencies and community members had access to critical information in a time sensitive and consistent manner was a high priority of the SIRC team. Throughout the phases of the response, the use of the external and internal websites

(<https://saskatooninteragencyresponse.ca/>) along with social media sites, e-news blasts, notify now emergency response systems and the incident command structure have create the mechanism to ensure that timely and effective messaging is received by all the community members. The team work diligently to include people with lived experience in the creation of materials that were community friendly and easy to understand. Working with a core team and external communications expert was also a critical part of this work. Funding from the CMAF was used to ensure that communications was well situated to adapt to the changing COVID landscape and give all community members attached to the work access to critical updates and information in real time.

## Testimonials:

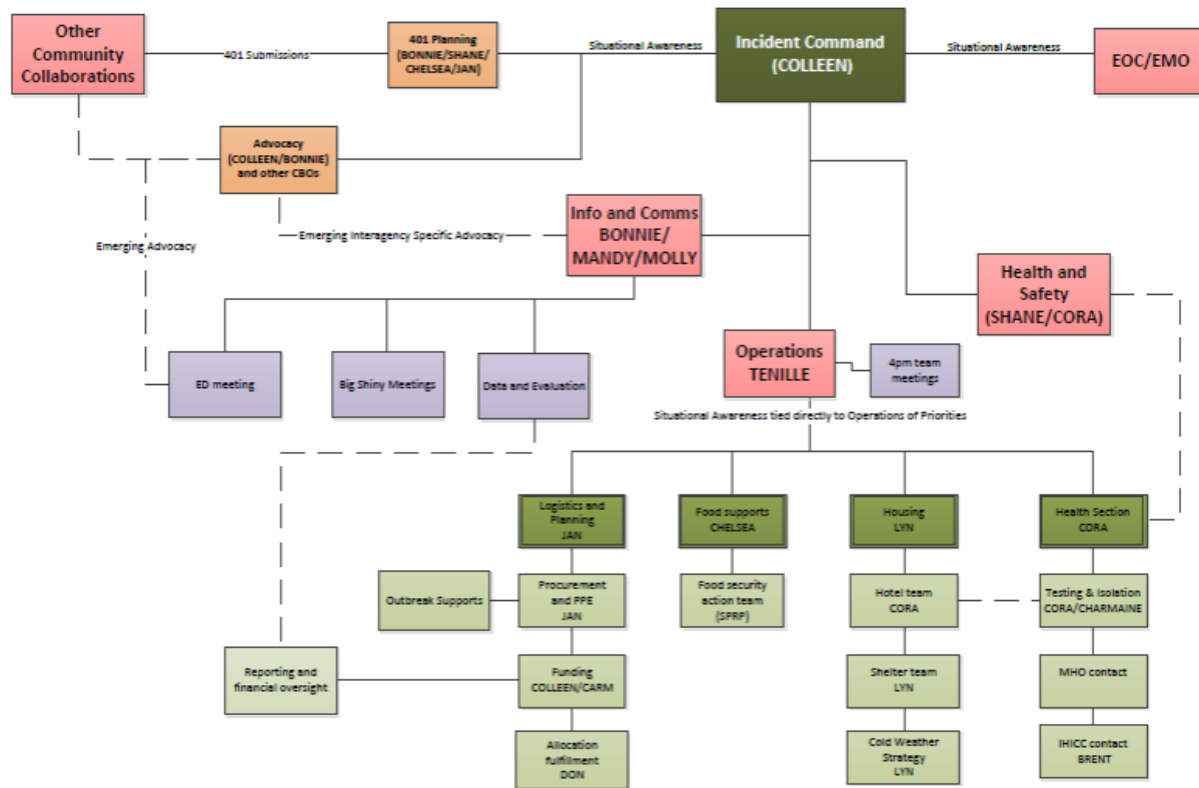
*“During a time of uncertainty the Inter Agency Response to Covid brought together a number of community based organizations who ultimately supported each other. From a SHIP perspective, the ability to access pertinent community covid information with an emergency measures context was invaluable. Without the connection and support from the Inter Agency group we would not have had logistics knowledge, access to PPE, or much needed guidance navigating through the covid reality.”*

- Lyn Brown, Executive Director,  
Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP)

## Final breakdown of the Expenses/Allocations:

Priority areas	Description of allocation	Amount	Payee	Primary Contact
CMAF 1	Disposable dishes for takeout at soup kitchens and meals at shelters	\$ 1,530.00	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 1	Bottled Water - this includes one additional pallet due to increased demand at the Lighthouse	\$ 3,775.00	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 1	Cleaning supplies; monthly re-order	\$ 2,000.00	Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre	Laurie O'Connor
CMAF 1	Bottled Water - this includes one additional pallet due to increased demand at the Lighthouse	\$ 4,545.97	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 1	Disposable dishes for takeout at soup kitchens and meals at shelters	\$ 2,312.32	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 1	PPE & Critical Supplies	\$ 15,000.00	Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre	Laurie O'Connor
CMAF 1	Masks-for-clients - disposable (civilian-grade)	\$ 2,000.00	Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre	Laurie O'Connor
CMAF 1	Washable masks for clients	\$ 14,560.15	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 1	PPE & Critical Supplies (surge, outbreak + inventory build)	\$ 28,000.00	Saskatoon Food Bank and Learning Centre	Laurie O'Connor
CMAF 1	Disposable dishes for takeout at soup kitchens and meals at shelters	\$ 2,782.65	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 1	Bottled Water - this includes one additional pallet due to increased demand at the Lighthouse	\$ 3,442.18	Friendship Inn	Sandra Kary
CMAF 2	Third party coordination of IMC and conduit to community partners	\$ 15,120.00	Kinship	Bonnie Heilman
CMAF 2	Third party coordination of IMC and conduit to community partners	\$ 16,380.00	Kinship	Bonnie Heilman
CMAF 3	Harm Reduction in a COVID-context	\$ 3,478.00	The Lighthouse Supported Living Inc.	Brett Scrupski
CMAF 4	communications and coordination (NOV/DEC)	\$ 4,200.00	Kinship	Bonnie Heilman
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 119,126.27		
OVER budget		-\$ 2,126.27		
** Overage was covered by internal Interagency Response funding sources				

## Appendix 1: Phase 2 surge planning Incident Command Structure (SIRC)



Document prepared by:  
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*On behalf of the Saskatoon Interagency  
Response to COVID (SIRC) command team.*