



# BIGGER THAN BASEBALL

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## LOS ANGELES DODGERS FOUNDATION COVID-19 UPDATE

At the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, we know that we must be bigger than baseball, and today, that means taking a leadership role in not only helping "flatten the curve" of COVID-19 spreading throughout our communities, but by doubling down and expanding access to assistance so many of us need during this crisis.

Since our founding in 1995, we have invested more than \$30 million in programs and grants to area nonprofits, and our fundraising has increased by 1,000% since 2012. That growth has enabled us to do more. Our team has made the necessary accommodations to work remotely and we are not slowing down. We know that true leadership means leading in times of great community challenges as well.

LADF launched a Dodgers RBI and nonprofit grantee COVID-19 Needs Assessment, detailing the impact of the pandemic on households and nonprofit partners and how LADF has adapted support during this time. In this spirit, there are key adjustments we want to share in our grantmaking, youth programs, and field renovations.

### **GRANTMAKING:**

In April, we quickly moved to extend our Cycle application deadlines and suspended all reporting requirements through May. We will continue to explore **increased grant flexibility** and continue to closely monitor the philanthropic environment. We know our nonprofit partners have more pressing matters right now than to file a report and we trust them to direct their time and resources where they are needed most.

In May, LADF distribute a survey to our 2019 and 2020 grantees and released a COVID-19 Grantee Needs Assessment revealing that Los Angeles nonprofits require increased flexibility during the current pandemic. We called on all major grantmaking organizations in Los Angeles to join us in offering nonprofit partners clear and consistent communication, creative collaboration, basic needs support that includes technology, grant requirements adjustments, and a platform to share best practices. The complete COVID-19 Grantee Needs Assessment can be found at [Dodgers.com/Grants](https://Dodgers.com/Grants).

To that end, we are combining Cycle 1 (submitted on February 1) and Cycle 2 (submitted on May 1) grant applications. All applications will be reviewed between May and July, with decision notifications sent in August. The submission deadline for Cycle 3 grants is August 1, 2020.

So far in 2020, LADF has awarded 68% of grants to organizations addressing homelessness and food insecurity, 20% to organizations improving education outcomes for youth, and 12% to improve access to health care for Angelenos. These have been long standing issues in Los Angeles that have only been exacerbated by the pandemic.

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS:**

We launched **educational programs to reinforce continuity of learning** for our kids at home during this time. Keeping our kids engaged at home benefits all of us, which is why LADF quickly pivoted to launch key Dodgers RBI program components online. Although on-the-field programming remains suspended, we will be using this time to support online training and resources for our adults and volunteer coaches to prepare them to serve our kids when programming resumes. We will continue to work with our location partners to ensure that all sites have undergone the necessary maintenance procedures to reduce the risk of spreading illnesses. We appreciate each and every one of our partner sites for their ongoing dedication to our programs.

To-date, LADF has delivered a Dodgers RBI virtual season which has included:

- **Virtual coaches trainings** with Dodgers Training Academy, Positive Coaching Alliance, Up2Us Sports, Coaching Corps, and UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT Program. Content has also featured Dodger coaching staff and focuses on providing parents and coaches with at-home baseball and softball drills, positive coaching adapted for the home environment, self-care and mental health tips, and injury and concussion prevention education.
- **Parent meetings and workshops** via Zoom sessions that shared community resources with families and provided parenting and mental health support via Positive Coaching Alliance and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health.
- **Email newsletters for families** that promote free programming and share valuable education, health, and fitness resources.
- **Fitness and nutrition videos**, a new “Wellness Wednesday” social media video series featuring current Dodger players, Dodgers RBI Field Champions, and LADF grantee, Common Threads, offering fitness and nutrition tips for youth and families.
- **Baseball and softball Dodger Drills**, a new weekly video series featuring elite coaches from the Los Angeles Dodgers Training Academy, accessible to all youth via LADF Instagram.
- **Literacy Resources**, such as [LA Reads](#), the Dodgers Reading Champions Challenge, and weekly read-aloud content featuring Dodger players, alumni, and broadcasters available online at [Dodgers.com/LAReads](#) and social media.
- **Sharing youth education resources** like LADF’s [Science of Baseball curriculum on Dodgers.com/STEM](#), Science of Baseball Virtual Camps, [Summer Slugger](#), [Jr. Dodgers](#), and LADF College and Career Accelerator virtual panels.

A survey to our Dodger RBI families in May and our [Dodgers RBI COVID-19 Needs Assessment](#) helped us learn more about the impact of the pandemic on households and how we must adapt our support during this time. Outcomes of the assessment informed the launch of our Dodger Day Drive-Thru Series, which took place over five days in June, providing over 132,000 meals for 4,000 youth. The “drive-thru” model, adjusted from its in-person format, provided over \$600,000 in food boxes, exercise and fitness resources, softball and baseball equipment, books, and educational support to feed families and help youth stay active and healthy.

#### **DODGERS DREAMFIELDS:**

Since our [community groundbreaking event](#) in February, LADF launched relief efforts but has remained in constant communication with project and construction partners for the Dodgers Dreamfields at Gonzales Park in Compton. LADF is currently evaluating the project completion timeline in accordance with LA County Department of Public and Health orders and local Compton and LA Mayors’ Safer at Home directives.

LADF and its partners remain committed to this project. There have been no changes made to the project scope or design. Plans for continued construction are tentatively set for later this fall. As planned, this project will include building three Dodgers Dreamfields and Fitness and Training Zones. Alongside lead partners Kershaw’s Challenge and the City of Compton, LADF will help restore Gonzales Park to its prior baseball glory and promote a positive environment for youth to play baseball and softball. We believe that Dodgers Dreamfields are game-changers, because revitalized green spaces help revitalize communities, boosting the safety of local parks and providing a place where neighbors can gather, exercise and play.

We envision a significant grand opening celebration in spring 2021 honoring Jackie Robinson and uplifting the Compton community. LADF looks forward to project completion so that, when it's safe to gather again, our youth and families can reenter and enjoy this new community space together.

In July, we will revisit our 51<sup>st</sup> Dodgers Dreamfield at Jack Bulik Park in the city of Fontana to distribute food boxes and Dodger goodies. This event will serve participants in the local Challenger’s Little League, for youth with physical disabilities and additional nonprofit organizations serving families suffering during this time.

#### **FUNDRAISING EVENTS & IN-STADIUM ACTIVITIES**

Our annual fundraising events and in-stadium activities will be announced based on an ongoing assessment of this rapidly evolving situation and the Major League Baseball schedule. We hope that when we are all back up and running, many of

our long-time partners and fans will join us and support these events, which raise millions of dollars to support critical programs throughout Los Angeles.

**RELIEF EFFORTS:**

The Dodgers and LADF launched joint relief efforts in early April and are working with team partners to provide 378,280 meals and \$794,000 in in-kind donations of food, water, hygiene necessities, gift cards and Dodger products to vulnerable populations who are experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, lack of basic needs and significant anxiety.

LADF created an **emergency fund to support Angelenos** during this uncertain time. Initial grants have been directed to the Los Angeles Food Bank, My Friend’s Place, the Mayor’s Fund of Los Angeles, and Brotherhood Crusade.

We’re providing **critical in-kind donations of food and basic needs** to local organizations serving as “grab and gos” for children and adults, as well as **those on the front lines of this crisis**. In-kind donations have already been offered to the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Grab & Go Food Centers, the Dream Center, and newly converted homeless shelters and childcare centers in partnership with City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Additional donations have been provided to healthcare workers at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center, UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center, and affiliated UCLA Health medical facilities.

The Dodgers and LADF sponsored groceries for 100 families at a Smart & Final store in the community of Watts, starting with shoppers during their special hour for seniors, expectant mothers, those with disabilities, and first responders in the medical field, and going into regular shopping hours. The Dodgers and LADF also partnered to provide 250 boxes of produce to the Bob Hope USO to support 250 active military and veteran families who are experiencing economic and food insecurity. We also worked with the Dodgers and Salvation Army to distribute 40,000 meals via “family food boxes” to 2,000 families in need and provided them with grocery gift cards via a drive-through food distribution at Dodger Stadium.

We have launched a bilingual website, [Dodgers.com/Relief](https://Dodgers.com/Relief) ([LosDodgers.com/Ayuda](https://LosDodgers.com/Ayuda)) that details our relief efforts and offers community and educational resources.

And, lastly, we are here to serve as a **partner in amplifying public health messages and promoting community resources** that raise awareness of efforts and best practices to stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep Angelenos busy with fun, educational and active projects to do while at home. We invite you to follow LADF on social media including Instagram (@dodgersfoundation) to receive important updates and resources.

*(Update as of July 1, 2020)*



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