

COVID-19 Response Program



Purpose: Tuesday's Children's COVID-19 Response Program provides resources and capacity building in key sectors interfacing directly with families and children bereaved by COVID-19, including: educators, health care professionals, CBOs and community leaders, policy makers, academic institutions, and other local systems.

The Cost of COVID-19: Covid-19 has affected the world socially, economically and psychologically—but perhaps the most severe impact has been the staggering loss of life.

- **6 million+** lives have been taken by COVID-19 worldwide
- **1 million+** people in the U.S. have died of COVID-19
- **1 in 5** Tuesday's Children families have lost a family member to COVID-19
- **217,000+** children in the U.S. have lost a parent or primary caregiver—many lost their sole caregiver
- The World Health Organization estimates **15 million+** lives lost during the pandemic
- Non-White children suffered losses up to nearly **4X** that of White children
- The pandemic has **disproportionately impacted** children 13 and under and communities of color

This magnitude of loss eclipses the worst tragedies of recent generations and warrants a comparatively wide-scale, long-term response to build the capacity of service providers to address rising needs in communities. The U.S. has long faced a shortage of family bereavement care providers, and the majority of community providers that do offer grief support were not able to operate at full capacity during the pandemic.

Project Goals: This project will close significant gaps in: 1) knowledge relating to the long-term needs of those impacted by trauma and loss; 2) training of key service providers to address those needs; and 3) funding to ensure the sustainability of support services.

Activities: The greatest investment we can make now is addressing the needs of children who have experienced loss. As part of a three-year program our organization is offering capacity building for educators, healthcare professionals, community-based organizations and community leaders, policy makers and institutions, seeking to provide bereavement care and promote long-term healing. Tuesday's Children will build resilience, common bonds and long-term healing in communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic through:

- **Civic Engagement**—coordinating with local emergency and crisis response teams, mental health organizations, civic and community leaders to inform strategic responses that promote long-term healing
- **Needs Assessments and Roadmapping**—assessing the needs of local communities and organizations to best direct resources and establish long-term support systems, offering demonstrations and trainings in evidence-based programs and designing localized "Roadmaps to Long-Term Healing"
- **Public Outreach & Education**—leveraging speaking engagements and presentations to improve public understanding of the long-term impact of trauma and loss on children and families
- **Peer-to-Peer Support**—ensuring that community-based and virtual programs are adequately trauma- and bereavement-informed; facilitating peer-to-peer connections among COVID-bereaved youth and families
- **Technical Assistance and Training**—building service capacity through our professional peer training program Connections in Resilience, Long-Term Healing Model, Youth Mentoring model and online toolkit at www.TuesdaysChildrenHeals.org

While there has been remarkable work done to bring attention to this issue, there is much more to be done. We are seeking partners to help translate data into action by identifying children and families impacted by parent and caregiver loss, and connecting them to support services.

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Leveraging Proven Models of Service for Guiding Families through Trauma and Grief

Through a proven and evidence-based **Long-Term Healing Model**, Tuesday's Children shares promising practices in disaster response and recovery with communities impacted by trauma and loss. A compilation of lessons learned serving over 45,000 individuals over more than two decades, our Model and online toolkit (www.TuesdaysChildren.org) provides valuable resources never before put into a train-the-trainer format, including innovative practices in community engagement, needs assessment, adaptive service delivery and evaluation. Coupled with our platform of proven programs, the Model serves as a guide for other service providers, policy makers, community-based organizations, survivor groups and professionals that can have a measurable impact on communities recovering from terrorism, mass violence and large-scale trauma and loss, such as the military losses suffered post-9/11 and widespread grief due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trauma-informed and trauma-responsive **Youth Mentoring** is a cornerstone of our programming. Since 2001, Tuesday's Children has served over 45,000 individuals through consistent, successful evidence-based programs—trauma and grief support, youth mentoring, mental health services, skills-building workshops, career resources, parenting advisement, youth leadership development, community-based family engagement events and volunteerism opportunities. We support families through: Long-Term Youth Mentoring; Career Mentoring; Peer Mentoring; and Digital Mentoring (bridging gaps in services in rural areas and preserving mentor/mentee relationship throughout the COVID-19 crisis).

The project leverages Tuesday's Children's **longstanding partnerships** that span more than 20 years of dedicated service to children and families who have suffered traumatic losses. Tuesday's Children serves in an advisory and training role to build capacity for localized, community-based long-term healing. We demonstrate program models, such as youth mentoring, that can be replicated or adapted to meet the needs of bereaved families and communities. We work hand-in-hand with service providers and civic leaders in charting their "**Roadmap to Long-Term Healing**" and adapting and configuring programming to build their capacity to support the multitude of families who have lost loved ones in this pandemic.

Partners: Tuesday's Children's COVID-19 Response Program is funded, in part, by multiyear grants from the New York Life Foundation, the Brave of Heart Fund to address unprecedented needs for childhood bereavement.



This project further leverages collaborations with our partners such as Marked by COVID, the COVID Collaborative and MENTOR to ensure tangible solutions for the healing and recovery from one of the worst public health crises in our history.

About Us: *Tuesday's Children provides a lifetime of healing for families who have been forever changed by terrorism, military conflict and mass violence.*

Through a time-tested, long-term approach, Tuesday's Children programming serves and supports our nation's military Families of the Fallen; keeps the promise to support all those impacted by 9/11; and builds resilience and common bonds in communities worldwide recovering from tragedies. Tuesday's Children heals families and communities around the globe, and our impact continues to grow by sharing our proven Long-Term Healing Model and lessons learned with other domestic and international communities, service providers, governmental agencies and family support networks.