Fast-Track Response
Supporting neurodegenerative disease communities impacted by public health or natural disaster crises.

People living with complex, chronic diseases are at increased risk during emergency situations. Public health crises or severe natural disasters may impact access to important resources and services. Emergency situations also cause an increased financial burden, which especially impacts older adults and people with disabilities who may rely on a limited, fixed income.

Adira Foundation is committed to using available funds in ways that most significantly impact the communities we serve Alzheimer’s disease, ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), Huntington’s disease, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson’s disease.

We believe that in times of emergency people living with neurodegenerative diseases and their caregivers will benefit most from expedited grants that respond to immediate needs. These grants align with Adira’s mission to invest in better lives for people living with neurodegenerative diseases by focusing on collaboration between communities and sectors, aggregating disease communities, and simplifying navigation of difficult systems.

During times of emergency Adira is prepared to:

- Identify organizations providing emergency-response, direct-service programs to the Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, Huntington’s disease, MS, or Parkinson’s disease communities and reach out to offer enhanced financial support.
- Fast-track the grant application process for organizations seeking financial support to provide emergency-response, direct-service programs to the Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, Huntington’s disease, MS, or Parkinson’s disease communities.

On March 11, the World Health Organization declared the new coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic. As a result, Adira is opening our Emergency Response Grant Program to provide support to organizations responding to this crisis. Organizations can apply for emergency financial support on adirafoundation.org.

Adira will accept applications from organizations that meet the following criteria:

- 501(c)(3) nonprofit in good standing.
- Headquarters are based and services are provided to clients in the U.S.
- Serve people diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, Huntington’s disease, multiple sclerosis, or Parkinson’s disease and/or their caregivers.
- Provide a direct service, tool, or resource to address a concern exacerbated or caused by the current COVID-19 public health emergency.
Emergency situations can create a host of additional problems that disproportionately impact older adults and people living with complex health conditions. With additional resources and a coordinated response effort, Adira believes we can help lessen the lasting impact of this crisis on people living with neurodegenerative diseases and their caregivers.

Adira has applied our unique Listen, Learn, Act approach to our emergency response initiatives.

**LISTEN**
Adira has engaged with patients, caregivers, health professionals, and disease advocates by webinar, conference call, and e-mail to hear the urgent needs that have arisen. We have reviewed a large collection of resources created by state and federal government, public health experts, and disease specialty medical personnel in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**LEARN**
Adira understands from our listening activities that many of the vulnerabilities faced by individuals living with neurodegenerative disease and their caregivers may be exacerbated during times of emergency. Furthermore, in the unique social environment created by necessary social distancing precautions taken in response to COVID-19 we understand that many of the usual solutions to these vulnerabilities may be less accessible or simply unavailable.

**ACT**
Adira understands from our listening activities that many of the vulnerabilities faced by individuals living with neurodegenerative disease and their caregivers may be exacerbated during times of emergency. Furthermore, in the unique social environment created by necessary social distancing precautions taken in response to COVID-19 we understand that many of the usual solutions to these vulnerabilities may be less accessible or simply unavailable.

Through Adira’s listening and learning activities we have identified the following as examples of interventions which may address the most urgent needs expressed by individuals living with a neurodegenerative disease and their caregivers as a result of the COVID-19 crisis:

- The direct provision of emergency financial assistance to pay for things like rent, groceries, utilities, or medical supplies including sanitation supplies
- Enhanced respite care services
- Mental health and emotional support services to decrease feelings of isolation
- Vital supplies procurement and home delivery services
- COVID-19 related education outreach activities
- Technological interventions to support at-home living or caregiver tasks
- Increased access to virtual medical care and support services

Adira will accept applications for innovative programs not identified above if they address an immediate concern of one or more of Adira’s supported neurodegenerative disease communities as a direct result of the current crisis.