



community news | april 2020



\*|IFNOT:ARCHIVE\_PAGE|\*\*|IF:FNAME|\*Dear \*|FNAME|\*,

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As we all try to find our footing a month into sheltering-in-place, innovative entrepreneurs and nonprofit leaders are coming up with creative ways to serve their communities and keep their organizations afloat. Among those tenacious individuals are our own Advance borrowers who [shifted with impressive speed](#) to be precisely the types of businesses our communities need during and after this pandemic.

To help fuel growth for more intrepid entrepreneurs, we launched [Respond + Rebuild](#) to support enterprises that are responding quickly to this new environment and actively working to build resilient communities and sustainable systems for a post-COVID-19 future.

We're also frequently updating this database of [COVID-19 resources](#) specifically for small businesses and nonprofits. Please share it and [let us know](#) if there's another resource you find valuable.

Together, we can ensure that the businesses and nonprofits we love are standing with us for many years to come.

Stay well and take care of one another,

Lauren Grattan

Co-Founder & Director of Community Engagement

## [Meet our newest borrower, The Way Back](#)

We're excited to introduce you to our newest borrower, The Way Back! The Way Back is a residential drug and alcohol abuse treatment program helping men to find the authenticity of living a life of long-term sobriety. Backed by evidence-based programming since 1971, [The Way Back](#) emphasizes holistic wellness and encourages clients to participate in all areas of life that will help facilitate a healthy and successful transition back into the community.



"We are training men to be better fathers, better husbands, better employees, to stay out of prison, to work, to communicate," says The Way Back Executive Director Chris Thomas, a licensed therapist who has been sober for 25 years. "Men are an important part of family structure, and addiction is a family disease."

[Learn more about The Way Back and why we invested.](#)

## [What's it like to start a fellowship during a pandemic?](#)



We are so grateful for the [five individuals](#) of our inaugural cohort of Community Finance Fellows for bravely jumping into this program one week into California's shelter-in-place orders. Starting a new job is a challenge in the best of times, but during a global pandemic in a newly virtual environment? Talk about nerve-racking!

Read more about their experience this past month and how we've adapted our fellowship curriculum on [our blog](#), and stay tuned in the coming months as we introduce you to each of these fellows in more detail.

## What we're reading



- [The color of coronavirus: COVID-19 deaths by race and ethnicity in the U.S.](#) [APM Research Lab]
- [Heading to where the puck is going to be: a reboot leading to cleaner, greener economy](#) [The Globe and Mail]
- [To combat widespread job loss, stay local and look to import replacement](#) [Next City]
- [Small-business rescue shows not all states are created equal](#) [Bloomberg]
- [Arundhati Roy: 'The pandemic is a portal'](#) [Financial Times]
- [Immigrants with medical training step in to fight the coronavirus](#) [NPR]
- [Being a person of color isn't a risk factor for coronavirus. Living in a racist country is](#) [The Boston Globe]
- [Inside Smithfield, JBS and Tysons Food meat plants, fears grew of employees working sick without protective gear](#) [The Washington Post]
- [Why U.S. jails and prisons became coronavirus epicenters](#) [Vox]

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