



Spokane County United Way

Innovia Foundation

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ballmer Group Gives \$250,000 to Eastern Washington COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund**

SPOKANE, WA, April 23, 2020; Innovia Foundation announced this week a \$250,000 donation from Ballmer Group to the COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund for Eastern Washington.

“This is an ongoing crisis, and it will require an ongoing effort to support our most vulnerable populations. We are grateful to Ballmer Group for joining our funding collaborative to ensure that many of our region’s nonprofits can withstand this crisis and continue to serve our region,” said Innovia Foundation CEO Shelly O’Quinn.

The COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for Eastern Washington is hosted at Innovia Foundation in partnership with Empire Health Foundation and Spokane County United Way.

“We know that our community-based organizations are on the front lines of this pandemic, working hard to keep kids and families in every corner of Washington healthy, housed and fed,” said Andi Smith, Ballmer Group’s Executive Director – Washington. “We are glad to partner with local businesses, philanthropies and individuals to make sure these organizations in Eastern Washington have the resources and support they need.”

In March, Innovia Foundation launched two COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds that are designed to complement the work of public health officials and expand local capacity to address the outbreak as effectively as possible. The two funds are:

- COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund: Eastern Washington
- COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund: North Idaho

The \$250,000 commitment from Ballmer Group brings the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds to nearly \$2 million, with donations from businesses, philanthropic organizations and individual donors.

In partnership with over 100 regional advisory committee member volunteers, \$779,000 was distributed to 138 organizations throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho in the first round of grantmaking. Grants were directed to nonprofit and grassroots organizations, as well as schools and other government agencies, that are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response.

The second round of grant distributions is expected in mid-May and will focus on locally identified needs of communities throughout Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Individuals and organizations can donate and find additional information about the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funds via [www.innovia.org/covid19](http://www.innovia.org/covid19).

The COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Funds are anchored by donations from funders including Innovia Foundation, Empire Health Foundation, Spokane County United Way, Avista Foundation, Ballmer Group, BECU, Better Health Together, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Burlington Northern, Community Building Foundation, Delta Dental of Washington, Equinox Foundation, Health Sciences & Services Authority of Spokane County, Itron, Lewis-Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation, MultiCare Health System, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Perigee Fund, Premera Blue Cross, Providence Health Care, Umpqua Bank, Wells Fargo and Women Helping Women Fund.

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Innovia Foundation ignites generosity that transforms lives and communities so that every person has the opportunity to thrive. As the community foundation for Eastern Washington and North Idaho, we partner with people who want to make our world better. We work together to address and solve our region's problems, help those in need, identify and respond to our greatest opportunities and leave a lasting impact. Each year, Innovia Foundation invests nearly \$7 million into our communities through grants and scholarships to nonprofit organizations and local students.