

# The Frontline Fund: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## 1. How was the Frontline Fund created?

The Frontline Fund was created by leaders in the healthcare fundraising sector who banded together to form a national coalition to Canadian hospitals and foundations coast to coast to raise urgently needed funds in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The idea is to provide Canadians with an easy way to support hospitals.

There are now more than 150 participating hospitals and foundations from coast to coast. Each of them is a registered Canadian charity.

## 2. Why was The Frontline Fund created?

Hospitals are facing unanticipated incremental costs that continue to climb as the COVID-19 public health emergency continues to evolve, adding pressure to operating budgets that are already strained.

Our hope with this national collaborative effort is to build profile for the urgent need and to provide an easy, one-stop solution for Canadians and Canadian businesses who want to help.

The situation for healthcare workers in Canada is extremely tough right now. They're working long days and nights in highly stressful environments, where the risk of contracting COVID-19 is a real threat. There is a great ongoing need for personal protective equipment (PPE) and key medical supplies required to both treat patients and protect themselves. Many are having to isolate themselves from their families to avoid the risk of having and spreading the virus. They're having to contemplate making choices between which patients to treat first. They're tired, anxious, and under relentless pressure to defeat an enemy that they often feel unequipped to battle. And in spite of all of this, they're still risking everything each day to go back into work, save lives, and protect all of us at home.

## 3. What does The Frontline Fund aim to achieve?

Our collective goal is to raise as much money as we can to help Canadian hospitals on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis and their frontline workers. Our hope is that Canadians and Canadian corporations will respond generously through The Frontline Fund [FrontlineFund.ca](https://www.frontlinefund.ca) to help the dozens of leading participating hospitals and foundations. Funds raised will support:

- Supplies – personal protective equipment like masks, disinfectants, and disposable clothing; ventilators, diagnostic and testing equipment, digital infrastructure needed to enable virtual patient care;
- Supports – Peer-to-peer mental health support, counselling, accommodation and food for healthcare workers that need to self-isolate, recognition and appreciation initiatives;
- Research – Support for clinical and basic research, COVID-19 clinical trials, and vaccine development.

**4. Was this program developed in response to the government not doing enough to support frontline workers?**

We've all seen and appreciate how much our governments are doing to support Canada's healthcare system through this unprecedented challenge. They are doing everything they can, but they can't do it alone. At times like these, philanthropy is more important than ever to support these efforts. The Frontline Fund is dedicated to meeting the highest priority needs of hospitals across Canada, with a focus on three key pillars: supplies, supports and research.

**5. Who can contribute to the Frontline Fund? How can people help?**

We are relying on the generosity of the community to raise as much money as we can to help hospitals in the fight against COVID-19. Individuals can donate online at [FrontlineFund.ca](https://FrontlineFund.ca) and all donations, of any amount, are welcome. Canadian residents who donate will receive a tax receipt from CanadaHelps.org, our online donation platform partner.

**6. Can donors direct where their donations will go (i.e. if I donate in Ontario, will my money support hospitals in my home province)?**

The Frontline Fund has partnered with CanadaHelps.org to serve as our online donation platform to make it easy and efficient for individuals to support frontline health care workers in the fight against COVID-19. All donations from individuals will flow through Canada Helps and be aggregated by province so that funds given by donors in that province remain in the province.

**7. How will the money raised by The Frontline Fund be allocated?**

All donations from individuals will flow through CanadaHelps.org and be aggregated by province so that funds given by donors in that province remain in the province. Funds will then be allocated proportionately according to the total number of beds per hospital. Corporate funds will be allocated according to each province's proportion of the Canadian population. Provincial proceeds will then be further sub-divided to participating hospital foundations according to the proportional number of in-patient beds. This process will ensure a fair and consistent approach nationally.

Additionally, up to 10 per cent of all funds raised will be allocated to the Canadian territories and Aboriginal communities.

**8. When will hospitals begin to receive the funds?**

Hospital foundations will receive their first disbursement on May 7, 2020.