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The North Valley Community Foundation announced today it is donating \$250,000 from its operating fund so the Butte County Public Health Department can purchase lab equipment for coronavirus testing, hire extra help for community outreach and more.

The donation was approved by the NVCF board of directors as seed money for a new Coronavirus (COVID-19) Rapid Response Fund for Local Nonprofits and Agencies. The fund was set up to allow individuals, businesses and philanthropic organizations to help organizations on the front lines prepare, rapidly respond to and deploy resources for coronavirus response in Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Colusa counties.

Particular attention will be focused on food security and health care for senior citizens, children and people experiencing homelessness.

NVCF reached out to Butte County Public Health last week and asked how the foundation could help. The county requested the lab equipment.

As of today, Butte County has no lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19. While labs in Butte County currently aren't able to run COVID-19 testing, Public Health has worked with local health care providers to help them collect and send specimens out of the area for testing. Timely testing and diagnosis is vital to addressing and responding to this crisis.

"Equipping the Public Health lab with COVID-19 testing capabilities will expedite lab turnaround times for Butte County," said Danette York, director for Butte County Public Health. "We are grateful to NVCF for this timely and generous donation."

The \$250,000 grant comes from the NVCF operating fund, not Camp Fire or Butte Strong donations.

“We have seen firsthand how our communities can selflessly and wholeheartedly respond to a crisis,” said Alexa Benson-Valavanis, president and CEO of NVCF. “Although no one could have fathomed another crisis arriving so soon, we have no doubt our communities will make it through the COVID-19 pandemic by coming together. We have committed the first \$250,000 to launch this fund from our own operating dollars.”

NVCF has a history of setting up funds to respond to disasters and other emergencies locally, nationally and internationally.

For more information on the Coronavirus Rapid Response Fund and how to donate, see <https://tinyurl.com/NVCFCoronavirus>.