



Philanthropy and COVID-19: From Relief to Recovery

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Philanthropy, with its ability to respond quickly to address urgent needs, has been stepping up to respond to the pandemic with expertise, time, and, of course, financial resources. To date, funders have provided more than [\\$10 billion](#) to mitigate the immediate effects and start to look ahead to longer-term solutions. This amount will certainly grow.

In this Milken Institute webinar, philanthropists and experts shared the experiences and lessons they learned as they acted to meet the immediate needs for health-system strengthening in the United States and around the world. Panelists also addressed the critical role of philanthropy in changing the systems that were fragile and failed to protect our world from the fallout of the pandemic.

The discussion featured:

- **Melissa Stevens (Moderator)**, Executive Director, Milken Institute Center for Strategic Philanthropy
- **Precious Moloi-Motsepe**, Co-Chair, Motsepe Foundation
- **Clara Wu Tsai**, Founder, The Clara Wu and Joe Tsai Foundation
- **Elizabeth Cousens**, President and CEO, UN Foundation
- **Tom Kalil**, Chief Innovation Officer, Schmidt Futures
- **Michael Milken**, Chairman, Milken Institute

Key Takeaways:

- Philanthropists must collaborate to make an impact in COVID-19 recovery efforts and to prepare for future pandemics.
- This crisis is giving way to opportunities that philanthropists can support to promote new systems and solutions that change entrenched behaviors.
- There is a need for strong policy work to ensure sustained recovery for individuals and entire communities.
- Philanthropic capital can add unique value by “arriving early and staying the course”—particularly in times of crisis.
- Philanthropy must support recovery in parallel to relief efforts.

A recording of the discussion is available [here](#).