**12.5.3 Worksheet**

**Ridgefield Submission 2021**

About the Ridgefield Department of Social Services

from the town website: <https://www.ridgefieldct.org/social-services>

*A wide array of Community Social work services are offered to Ridgefield residents through the Department. Services are provided to families and adults by the Director, who is also the Agent for the Disabled and the Town's federally mandated Americans With Disabilities Act Coordinator. Services specifically for senior citizens are provided by the Municipal Agent for the Elderly.*

*Department members are always available to provide information and referral services to Ridgefield residents as well as to assist them in applying for local, State and Federal benefit programs for which they may qualify.*

*If you would like to contribute to help local residents with financial insecurity, please go to our* [*fund page.*](https://connect.clickandpledge.com/w/Form/a0706d47-8502-4274-9b41-e2d8c3503ae1) *Thank you for your generosity and kindness!*

Below is a sampling of programs administered by Ridgefield’s Social Services Department in the first 4 months of the Covid-10 crisis along with the ongoing standard program. There are also many different food insecurity programs which are primarly described in other parts of our application.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Description of Strategy Used (see above)** | **Amount of Funding Appropriated/ Obtained by Grant (or Value of Units/ Voucher Set-asides)** | **Description of What was Funded** | **Funding Time Period** |
| Start of Covid shifted food pantry from pick up to low contact gift card distribution | $35,000 from the town budget | $100/1st person + $50/additional person ea family249 total households helped | March-June 2020 |
| Ridgefield Responds- private donations to make rent payments | $400,000 in donations from residents | Up to $1,500/month in rent paid to landlord. 292 applicants received awards | March – July 2020 |
| Partnered with an education nonprofit to recruit volunteers to provide bags of food | Equivalent of about $10,000 | 100 volunteers agreed to buy a bag of groceries every week for 10 weeks for families whose children depended on school lunches  | July-September 2020 |
| Ridgefield Emergency Fund - Ongoing fund supported by private donations | Averages $50,000/year  | Funds are used to purchase food certificates, home heating fuel, electricity, clothing, and other basic needs for financially distressed local residents. | Ongoing |