In 1954, The American Legion endorsed the separate incorporation of the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). Since then, the foundation has granted over $17 million to nonprofit youth-oriented organizations. Grants are awarded solely for the following purposes: To contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of children and youth; to improve the lives of children and youth through funding projects of other nonprofit organizations or in other ways designed to benefit youth, including youth activities and programs sponsored by The American Legion.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 65th year, has awarded $697,282 to 23 nonprofit organizations. These grants, determined during the annual meeting of the board of directors, held at the Sheraton Hotel City Centre in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Sunday, October 13, 2019. These grants have been awarded to support youth-serving projects that seek to enhance the lives of children by addressing the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. The following is a brief summary of the grants awarded for 2020.

**Adoption Exchange Association** of Linthicum, Maryland, was awarded $18,947 for their project, “Every Child Deserves a Family.” This grant will provide a website to share useful information with other agencies to facilitate adoptions.

**American Legion Auxiliary** of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded $1,843 for their project, “American Legion Auxiliary Juniors Indivisible Project”. This project will purchase the “Indivisible” books to teach junior members about the American Flag. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**American Legion Auxiliary** of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded $120,500 for their project, “American Legion Auxiliary National Youth Programs Scholarships.” This grant will provide academic scholarships in the following areas: Girls Nation, Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship and Honorary National Junior Scholarship. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Childhood Leukemia Foundation** of Brick, New Jersey, was awarded $29,700 for their project, “Hope Binder.” This project will offer 12 sections of templates and resources to help families begin to feel a degree of control over their circumstances. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation** of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was awarded $30,000 for their project, “Teach for the Starz(l); Online Resources for Child Liver Transplant Patients and their Families.” This project will create an online portal of resources for children and their families who have received a liver transplant. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

**Cornelia De Lange Syndrome Foundation** of Avon, Connecticut, was awarded $21,258 for their project, “Parent Resources and Handbook for Children with Cornelia de Lange Syndrome.” This grant will fund the updating, printing, and distribution of their handbook.

**CureSearch for Children’s Cancer** of Bethesda, Maryland, was awarded $33,000 for their project, “Supporting American Families Facing a Pediatric Cancer Diagnosis.” This grant will fund the creation of a CancerCare mobile app which will allow parents to track the treatment plans, medications, and appointments for their children. It will also provide an Ella Barbie doll to help children better understand hair loss.
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Chicago, Illinois, was awarded $25,000 for their project, “Mental Health Education and Wellness Tools for Children and Youth.” This project will create an online database of tools and resources for children and youth who suffer from mood disorders and promoting this awareness during the national marketing campaign.

Gratitude Initiative of Red Oak, Texas, was awarded $10,500 for their project, “Gratitude Initiative Promotional Materials for US Army IMCOM.” This project will create and produce a webinar to help children of Army families prepare for the transition into college.

Lifeline Pilots of Peoria, Illinois, was awarded $25,000 for their project, “No Cost Air Transportation for Medically Fragile Kids. This project will fund air transportation for children who are receiving treatment outside their local area.

Marc Apodace Jr. Children’s Glioma Cancer Foundation of Thornton, Colorado, was awarded $8,540 for their project, “Educational IPad Program.” This project will fund IPads and the software for children who have been diagnosed with cancer and lost the ability to communicate with family and their doctors.

National Braille Press of Boston, Massachusetts, was awarded $19,725 for their project, “ReadBooks!” This grant will fund resource books for parents with visually impaired children to introduce their children to Braille as an effective method of reading and writing and help encourage parents to learn Braille to help their children. It will also provide a braille book for the visually impaired child.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children of Alexandria, Virginia, was awarded $12,839 for their project, “Reconnecting with Your Child: Building Relationships after Suspected Sexual Exploitation.” This grant will fund the production and distribution of information on how to reconnect with someone who has suffered sexual exploitation.

National Hemophilia Foundation of New York, New York, was awarded $19,200 for their project, “Navigating life with a Rare Bleeding Disorder.” This project will create both a kid friendly and parent guide to help them understand their diagnosis while explaining what comes next. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Patient Airlift Services of Farmingdale, New York, was awarded $46,190 for their project, “PALS Outreach for Children’s Health and Welfare.” This grant will fund the printing and distribution of materials to increase awareness of their services to families of children in need of treatment outside their local area, while also recruiting new pilots.

Seedlings Braille Books for Children of Livonia, Michigan was awarded $5,000 for their project “Braille Books for Blind Children Ages 6 and older.” This grant will provide braille books to those children who are visually impaired over the age of six. The Sons of The American Legion support this grant.

Songs of Love of Forest Hills, New York was awarded $25,000 for their project “Songs of Love Outreach Project.” This grant will fund the printing and distribution of profile forms and song request forms that will help create personalized songs for seriously ill children up to the age of 21 with no charge to them. This grant will also update and maintain the website which provides detailed information on how to request a song.

Sportsman Alliance Foundation of Columbus, Ohio, was awarded $20,000 for their project “Heritage Hunting and Fishing Project.” This grant will expose 5,000 youth to hands on training and real-life outdoor experience in hunting and fishing, while teaching them safety, wildlife conservation. This grant will also create online educational videos.

Talk about Curing Autism of Irvine, California was awarded $21,540 for their project “Autism Journey Guides and Educational Materials.” This grant will print and distributed 4,000 copies of their recently updated “Autism Journey Guide” and educational information to families who have recently been diagnosed with Autism.
The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded $5,000 for their project "Academic scholarships for top scorers of the 2020 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament." This grant will provide academic scholarships for each youth having the top score in the Sporter and Precision disciplines after the second round of the 2020 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament. (April 10, 2020)

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana, was awarded $17,500 for their project "Academic scholarships for 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and Runners-Up." This grant will provide academic scholarships for youth selected as the 2020 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year and three runners-up. (April 10, 2020)

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded $106,000 for their project "Academic scholarships for 2020 American Legion department oratorical winners." This grant will provide academic scholarships for youth whose American Legion department reported them as their department oratorical winner prior to the March 31, 2020, deadline. (April 10, 2020)

The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, Indiana was awarded $75,000 for their project “The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance Program-2020.” This grant will provide temporary financial assistance to the minor child(ren) in the home of a veteran to maintain shelter, food, utilities, and clothing. The Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary support this grant.