

Nonprofit Track Reforms to the CARES Act

April 8, 2020



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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

The charitable nonprofit community appreciates that several key relief programs in the CARES Act were modified to include nonprofit eligibility. This approach recognizes the significant role that charitable nonprofits play as the third largest employer in our nation's economy and as valued problem solvers. We are grateful that Congress recognized that every dollar granted, donated, or earned goes back into the community immediately to address clear and present challenges. However, implementation challenges have arisen with federal agencies and private entities that undermine Congressional intent to provide economic relief for nonprofit organizations.

As you work to build on the CARES Act, the charitable nonprofit sector requests a **Nonprofit Track** to ensure that charitable nonprofits are supported in their service on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. **Specifically, we urge Congress to include the following clarifications and provisions:**

- 1. Expand Nonprofit Access to Credit** by designating funding *exclusively* for nonprofits within the two principal loan programs established in the CARES Act to ensure that the organizations dedicated to addressing immediate pandemic-related problems are included in relief efforts and not excluded or pushed to the back of the line. The following additional improvements are needed to expedite relief:
 - **Paycheck Protection Program:** Provide incentives to private lenders to prioritize processing of applications of small nonprofits and expand the eligibility for nonprofits to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program by modifying the current 500-employee cap or by other means.
 - **Mid-Size Business Loan Program:** Adjust CARES Act Section 4003(c)(3)(D) to implement a program to support nonprofit employers with between 500 and 10,000 employees, including loan-forgiveness and other provisions. The legislation should direct the Treasury Department to have this program operational no later than 15 days after enactment.
- 2. Strengthen Charitable Giving Incentives** to encourage all Americans to help their communities through charitable donations during these challenging times. The following modifications will generate immediate results:
 - **Applicable to 2019 Tax Filings:** Encourage donations to the work of charitable organizations in their communities today by enabling taxpayers making donations on and after March 13 (date of national emergency declaration) and before July 16 to claim the deductions on their 2019 tax filings. This retroactive application should apply to itemized and above-the-line deductions during this critical period.
 - **Improve the Above-the-Line Deduction** in CARES Act by increasing the \$300/person cap and extending the effective date of the incentive.

- 3. Treat Self-Funded Nonprofits Fairly** by increasing the federal unemployment insurance reimbursement for self-funded nonprofits to 100% of costs. As currently written Section 2103 of the CARES Act will subject nonprofits throughout the country to crippling payments to their state unemployment systems later this year, while other employers will likely experience little or no additional costs resulting from mass COVID-19-related layoffs.
- 4. Increase Emergency Funding** by appropriating funds for targeted state formula grants and programs that can provide a rapid infusion of cash to nonprofit organizations that are partnering with state and local governments to protect vulnerable families and frontline responders. Charitable nonprofits are on the frontlines of providing relief, support, and care now, while the pandemic rages, and going forward as America will struggle to recover. Organizations need the resources now to provide vital services essential to individual and community wellbeing.

We thank you, once again, for your leadership in crafting and passing the CARES Act. It was a critical first step. We hope that nonprofits can count on your continued leadership, and your insistence that the needs of nonprofits, and the indispensable role they play, are at the center of this relief legislation. And we count on your active engagement with the president to make sure that charitable nonprofits can continue to fulfill their missions, especially in times such as this of unique challenge to our nation.

Sincerely,

Accord Network
 Adult & Teen Challenge
 Afterschool Alliance
 Agudath Israel of America
 Alfalit International
 Allergy & Asthma Network
 Alliance for Peacebuilding
 Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
 Alliance to End Hunger
 Alpha-1 Foundation
 ALS Association
 Alzheimer's Association
 American Alliance of Museums
 American Association on Health and Disability
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
 American Diabetes Association
 American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
 American Friends Service Committee
 American Heart Association
 American Jewish World Service
 AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS
 American Library Association
 American Lung Association
 American Society on Aging
 American Trails
 Americans for the Arts
 Angioma Alliance

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
 Ar. Coalition Against Sexual Assault
 Arthritis Foundation
 Association of Art Museum Directors
 Association of the United States Navy
 Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
 Bethany Christian Services
 Beyond Celiac
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
 Boy Scouts of America
 Boys & Girls Clubs of America
 Boys Town
 Bread for the World
 Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation
 CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America)
 Call of the Sea
 Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood
 CARE USA
 Catholic Charities USA
 Catholic Relief Services
 Center for Conservation Peacebuilding
 Center for Policy Analysis
 CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
 ChildFund International
 Children's Home Society of America
 Children's Trust Fund Alliance

Christian Connections for International Health
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Church Hill Activities and Tutoring (CHAT)
Citizen Schools
City Year, Inc.
Citygate Network
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
COPD Foundation
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council on Foundations
Covenant House International
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cross International
Cure SMA
CureDuchenne
Danielle Byron Henry Migraine Foundation
David Brower Center
Davis Phinney Foundation
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Dignity Freedom Network
Dreamsickle Kids Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
ETS
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)
Exponent Philanthropy
Faith & Giving Coalition
Family Focused Treatment Association
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FoodCorps
GBS-CIDP Foundation International
Generations For Peace Inc.
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
Giving Children Hope
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Gould Syndrome Foundation
Growing Hope Globally
Habitat for Humanity International
Healing Household 6
Healthy Schools Campaign
Helen Keller International
Hemophilia Federation of America
HIAS
Hoving Home
Hydrocephalus Association
Independent Sector
Institute of International Education
InterAction
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
International Myeloma Foundation
International Rescue Committee
Islamic Relief USA
JCC Staten Island
Jewish Community Centers Association of North America
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America
Jumpstart
Lakeshore Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Langham Partnership USA, INC., NFP
Leadership 18
League of American Orchestras
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Little Miss Hannah Foundation
Living Waters for the World
Lupus Foundation of America
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Lutheran Services in America
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance
March of Dimes
Meals on Wheels America
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Mental Health America
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
Mercy Corps
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mission: Hope

MLD Foundation
MOVIEGUIDE®
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Evangelicals
National Community Action Partnership
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council of Nonprofits
National Eczema Association
National Environmental Health Association
National Fitness Foundation
National Health Council
National Human Services Assembly
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network for Youth
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Nations Kidney Foundation
Native American Rights Fund
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nonprofit Leadership Alliance
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual
Violence
Oxfam
Partners in Action
Peace Direct US
Penny Appeal USA
Plant With Purpose
Playworks
Prevent Blindness
ProInspire
Project HOPE
Safe States Alliance
Saint Francis Ministries
Save Our Shores
Search for Common Ground
She Is Safe
Siegel Rare Neuroimmune Association
Solve ME/CFS Initiative

Solving Kids' Cancer
Special Olympics International
SPOON
Squash and Education Alliance
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Superficial Siderosis Research Alliance
(SSRA)
Susan G. Komen
Teach For America
TeamConnor Childhood Cancer Foundation
The Alliance for Middle East Peace
The Evangelical Environmental Network
The Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin
Types, Inc.
The Hometown Foundation, Inc.
The LAM Foundation
The Myositis Association
The Sentry
The Trevor Project
TREA: The Enlisted Association
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Soccer Foundation
UNICEF USA
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of
America
United Philanthropy Forum
United Way Worldwide
VetsFirst
VisionServe Alliance
Volunteers of America
Water is Basic
Wilderness Inquiry
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
WomenHeart: The National Coalition of
Women with Heart Disease
World Learning
World Relief
World Vision
Year Up
YMCA of the USA
YWCA USA