

United States Senate

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Shelby, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As you work on the next legislative package to address the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we strongly encourage you to ensure that nonprofits are protected by including additional emergency funding. Nonprofits provide essential social services for many Americans, including food, shelter, and medical services. During this public health crisis, communities nationwide are relying on nonprofit services to survive—more and more each day. At the same time as this increased demand, nonprofits are facing significant economic hardship.

Providing the nonprofit sector increased emergency funding for targeted state formula grants and programs will ensure that national and local organizations can maintain a continuity of services. These funds must be distributed quickly through multiple existing funding streams, including emergency grants to nonprofits operating under existing federal grants, as well as through sub-grantees for state or local governments, or other pass-through entities.

For example:

- An additional \$55 million for the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* programs and \$100 million for the Sexual Assault Services Program, which will help service providers to prevent and respond to sexual assault and family and domestic violence, including shelter and supportive services for those who need it;
- An additional \$50 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant will assist child care providers, as well as child care resource and referral agencies, as they provide emergency child care for first responders and essential workers, ensuring that these providers are able to remain open and that the child care system remains functioning for families to get back to work and school as we recover from this crisis;
- An additional \$500 million for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program will allow afterschool and summer learning programs to provide services to keep children

on track academically through this school year and the summer, and even into the next school year;

- Additional funding for the Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant and the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program as well as other public health programs;
- Additional funding for the *Older Americans Act* and Administration for Community Living programs that provide in-home assistance, legal services, language assistance, nutrition services, and other vital services and supports older adults and people with disabilities need to stay healthy at home and to prevent negative impacts of prolonged social isolation;
- An additional \$100 million to expand the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration programs for national out-of-school time organizations to help support essential-skills development, career exposure, employability & certification and work-based learning; and
- An additional \$4.1 billion for the Social Services Block Grant, with a 5 percent set-aside for tribes, to support critical social services for vulnerable populations, including those at risk of family violence and abuse, children and youth in foster care, older adults struggling with hunger, and other supports.

These are a few of the existing funding streams that the next coronavirus package should support with an increase in appropriations to meet an immediate need. The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* was a positive first step to aid the nonprofit sector. The nonprofit community will continue to play an essential role in coronavirus response, and we need them to scale up and meet an increase in demand. A rapid infusion of funds to nonprofit organizations that are partnering with state and local governments will help frontline responders and vulnerable families.

As we draft legislation both to mitigate and recover from this pandemic, we must give nonprofits the support they need to lead their communities out of this crisis. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Tina Smith
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator