



WASHINGTON NONPROFITS

We make sure nonprofits have what they need to succeed.

April 6, 2020

Dear Elected Officials of Washington State,

We in the nonprofit community are grateful for your leadership and are proud to work side-by-side with you to support our communities during this difficult time. We share your commitment to ensure the wellbeing of Washington's residents.

At the same time, we are concerned that no measures have been taken to address the strength of nonprofit organizations in responding to this crisis. Many of the current or proposed responses do not provide the necessary support needed by nonprofits to continue their efforts in mitigating the downstream impacts of social and economic turmoil. The COVID-19 pandemic makes our work more essential than ever. Specific recommendations for actions that will support nonprofits include:

- **Establish an emergency grant program for nonprofits** significantly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The federal disaster loan program is not a practical solution for many nonprofits as they do not have the means to repay loans without putting vital services in jeopardy over the long-term.
- **Be flexible regarding how current government funding is used by nonprofits.** Many of us are having to adapt how we deliver services during this time period and will experience interruptions in service in some cases. We depend on this revenue to pay our staff and keep our organizations running so that we can ultimately support our communities.
- **Add a seat for nonprofits on the COVID-19 Economic Impact Task Force** so that the perspective of nonprofit organizations can be included as solutions and responses are crafted by the task force.
- **Include nonprofits who self-insure or utilize an employer trust for unemployment benefits** in the new emergency unemployment benefits program.
- **Address rural and low-income community access to technology and broadband.** Provide funds for technology and training so nonprofits can move to remote work and virtual service models when possible.

Nonprofits play a vital role in building economic, emotional, physical, developmental, and social well-being for all community members. Washington State is home to approximately 30,000 federally-recognized nonprofits, which employ 269,361 people in this state, all working for our collective benefit. For example:

- **Human service providers restore well-being** when it is disrupted by the unpredictable life storms that can affect us all, like a physical or mental health challenge, caring for an ailing loved one, losing a job, or experiencing the trauma of interpersonal or community violence.
- **Human rights advocacy organizations enforce and expand the rights of people who suffer injustice because of poverty or discrimination.** They fight for dignity, freedom, justice, equality, and peace for all communities, involving those who have been historically underrepresented.
- **Community development organizations revitalize low-income, underserved neighborhoods that have experienced significant disinvestment.** Their work supports development of affordable housing, improves community health through economic development, and plays a

critical role in building community wealth.

- **Environmental conservation groups seek to protect the environment against misuse or degradation from human forces.** They preserve plants, animals and natural communities by protecting the lands, waters and air they need to survive – thereby improving the environment for all of us.
- **Arts and cultural organizations help build healthy, vibrant, equitable communities.** They bring joy, inspiration, and vitality to our all Washingtonians and provide a direct economic benefit through revenue and tourism.

Every sector of the nonprofit community is facing unprecedented demands as a result of the coronavirus epidemic, and it is challenging our ability to support the people and communities that rely on us. Current relief efforts miss the mark in supporting this essential portion of the Washington State workforce. Examples of these challenges include:

- Nonprofits, particularly service providers, are being called on to adapt quickly to new operating requirements, educate community members, and support vulnerable community members **without any new resources.**
- Many nonprofit service providers, such as food banks and behavioral health providers, are **facing increased demand for services.**
- Nonprofits tend to be under-resourced and under-staffed in the best of times. A drop-off in staff and volunteers due to illness, vulnerability to illness, and families in need of child care are posing **threats to program continuity.**
- Many nonprofits are **already suffering significant financial losses** due to cancelled fundraising events, performances, conferences and other revenue streams. Like small businesses, nonprofits require help to recover economically.

To support the wellbeing of our state's nonprofit infrastructure, we recommend that you **include nonprofits in all relief and recovery funding** that is available in our state. [We request a virtual meeting with you this week](#) to share more information about the critical role nonprofits are playing in the COVID-19 response across the state and discuss opportunities to provide needed support for this vital work and include nonprofits in creating the solutions. Please contact Laura Pierce at Washington Nonprofits, laura@washingtonnonprofits.org, 206-412-8362, to schedule a meeting.

We look forward to partnering with you on continuing Washington state's leadership in addressing this ongoing crisis.

Sincerely,

Washington Nonprofits

501 Commons
Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services
African American Veterans Housing and Human Services Group
Aging in PACE Washington (AiPACE)
AHAT Homecare
Alexander Hamilton Scholars
API Chaya
Artisans at the Dahmen Barn
ArtsFund
Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County
Attain Housing

Bellevue Youth Choirs
Bleeding Disorder Foundation of Washington
Blue Mountain Action Council
Blue Mountain Heart to Heart
Boxes Because
Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue
Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton and Franklin Counties
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Columbia Basin
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lewis County
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound
Boys & Girls Clubs of Southwest Washington

Boys & Girls Clubs of Spokane County
Boys & Girls Clubs of Washington State
Association
Camano Senior Services Association
Casa Latina
Cascade Bicycle Club
Cascade Connections
Catherine Place
Catholic Charities Eastern Washington
Catholic Community Services of Western
Washington
Cedarmere Foundation
Center for Children & Youth Justice
Centro Latino
Child's Play
Childhaven
Chinese Information and Service Center
Clark County Historical Museum
Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence
Communities In Schools of Benton-Franklin
Communities In Schools of Lakewood
Communities In Schools of Peninsula
Communities In Schools of Puyallup
Communities In Schools of Renton-Tukwila
Communities In Schools of Spokane County
Communities In Schools of Washington
Community Foundation for Southwest
Washington
Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants
and Refugees
Community Homes Inc.
Companis
Construction for Change
Cowlitz County CASA
Darrington Food Bank
Domestic Abuse Women's Network
Eastside Baby Corner
EcoAdapt
Economic Development Alliance of Skagit
County
Education Across Borders
El Centro de la Raza
Ellensburg Rodeo Hall of Fame
Empowerment 4 Girls
Eritrean Association in Greater Seattle
Evergreen Community Orchestra
Fix Democracy First
Foundation for Healthy Generations
Foundation for Tacoma Students
Freedom Project
Freehold Theatre
Gambian Talents Promotion
Gender Justice League
Glacier Peak Institute
Global Leadership Forum
Grays Harbor Historical Seaport

Habitat for Humanity of Washington State
Hazel Dell Little League
Healing Circles Langley
Heartlinks Hospice & Palliative Care
Helping Hand House
Helping Link
HERO House NW
Homes and Hope Community Land Trust
Homes First
Hopelink
HopeSparks Family Services
HopeWorks Social Enterprises
Housing Development Consortium of King
County
Human Services Council
Imagine Housing
Inspire Washington
International Examiner
IslandWood
Janna Rolland Consulting
Jones & Associates PLLC, CPAs
Jumping Mouse Children's Center
Kate's House Foundation
Kent Youth and Family Services
King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
Lambert House LGBTQ Youth Center
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Little Lives Small Animal Rescue
Little Star School
Long Live the Kings
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
Lydia Place
Methow Recycles
Methow Valley Nordic Ski Educational
Foundation
NAMI Pierce County
NAMI Seattle
New Beginnings
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment
Non Profit Insurance Program (NPIP)
North Urban Human Services Alliance (NUHSA)
Northwest Association for Biomedical Research
Northwest Diving History Association
Northwest Harvest
Northwest Infant Survival and SIDS Alliance
Northwest Parkinson's Foundation
Northwest Straits Foundation
Northwest Ultimate Association
Nourish Pierce County
Pacific Bonsai Museum
Pacific Community Foundation
Partners for Our Children
Pathways Clinic
Pawsitive Alliance

PCAF (Pierce County AIDS Foundation)
Phinney Neighborhood Association
Pioneer Human Services
Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
Pomegranate Center
Pottery Northwest
Program for Early Parent Support
Queen Anne Helpline
Rebuilding Mid-Columbia
Rebuilding Together South Sound
Refugee Connections Spokane
Resolution Washington
Rod's House
Rural Resources Community Action
RVC
Safe Harbor Support Center
Scleroderma Foundation Northwest Chapter
Seattle Chess Club
Seattle Chinese Garden Society
Seattle Human Services Coalition
Seattle Works
Senior Life Resources -- Mid-Columbia Meals on Wheels
Shared Housing Services
Sharp Consulting Group
Skamania County Chamber of Commerce
Skamania EDC
Skookum Kids
Sno-Valley Senior Center
Solutions for Good
Sound Experience
Sound Outreach
Southwest Youth and Family Services
Spark Central
Spokane Hearing Oral Program of Excellence (HOPE)
STEM Paths Innovation Network
Stevenson Downtown Association
Stillaguamish Senior Center
Studio East
Studio East Training for the Performing Arts
Sunrise Outreach Center of Yakima
Tacoma Farmers Market
Tacoma Historical Society
Tacoma Urban League
Tacoma-Pierce County Affordable Housing Consortium
Team Read
Technology and INformation For All - TINFA
Teens In Public Service

The Beyond Project
The Council on Aging & Human Services
The DOVE Project
The HUB - Center for Seniors
The Mockingbird Society
The Ostara Group
The Service Board
The Valtas Group
Together!
Toppenish Community Chest
Tri Cities Younglife
Tri-Cities Cancer Center
Tri-Cities Cancer Center Foundation
Triumph Treatment Services
Unemployment Services Trust
United Way of King County
United Way of Pierce County
United Ways of the Pacific Northwest
University Heights Center
Vashon Center for the Arts
Vashon Youth and Family Services
VIKING ROBOTICS 2928
Village Community Services
Volunteers of America Eastern Washington
Wags to Riches Animal Rescue and Sanctuary, Inc.
Walla Walla Symphony
Wallingford Community Senior Center
Washington Association for Career and Technical Education
Washington Bikes
Washington Food Coalition
Washington Global Health Alliance
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washington State Community Action Partnership
Washington State Public Health Association
Washington Trails Association
Whidbey Island Center for the Arts
White Salmon Valley Education Foundation
WithinReach
Women & Children's Free Restaurant & Community Kitchen
Work Opportunities
Yakima Valley Community Foundation
Young Women Empowered
Youth and Family Link
Youth Development Executives of King County
YWCA Seattle|King|Snohomish
YWCA Spokane



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