Nonprofit Track Reforms to the CARES Act

April 8, 2020

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
Alfarit 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