The Charitable Sector: COVID-19 Relief and Economic Stimulus Package

America’s charities request $60 billion infusion of support to help the most vulnerable

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic facing the country is having a profound impact on the economy and has greatly expanded the need for charitable organizations to provide additional services in an unprecedented manner. At the same time, the economic downturn will undoubtedly result in a contraction in contributions and other sources of revenue which are the lifeblood of many charitable organizations. America’s charities are frontline responders providing food, shelter, medical services and other critical services to those in need in their communities. At this crucial time when the American people and governments will depend even more on charitable nonprofits, contributions are likely to decrease as happened following the 2008 recession.
Without dramatic and immediate financial and programmatic backstop from government, America’s charitable nonprofits and the people we serve face a precipitous decline in mission services at a time when our efforts are needed like never before by the most vulnerable in our communities.

America’s charitable nonprofits need an immediate infusion of $60 billion in capital to maintain operations, expand scope to address increasing demands, and stabilize losses from closures throughout the country. Below are specific recommendations for assistance to help the nonprofit sector stay engaged serving the American people:

- As 10% of U.S. GDP, we employ 12 million workers. We need to retain them.
- Nonprofits are on the frontlines serving people, especially those in need. We need business continuity relief.
- Give nonprofit payroll tax credit relief as this is the most significant tax we pay.
- Provide an “above-the-line” or universal charitable deduction for contributions through the end of 2021.

America's charitable nonprofits are significant employers

America’s charities employ over 12 million people, with payrolls exceeding those of most other U.S. industries, including construction, transportation, and finance. The largest expenditures for most of America’s charitable organizations are personnel costs. Unfortunately, in multiple disaster relief laws in the past, Congress has approved employment-related tax credits that fail to recognize that we are significant employers.

Policy Solution: As is done in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201), any additional employment-focused relief or stimulus legislation must expressly apply to employment at tax-exempt organizations by making tax credits and deductions applicable not just to income taxes, but to the taxes nonprofits pay, such as payroll taxes. Further, Congress should also ensure that relief and stimulus legislation designed to assist for-profit businesses in the areas of unemployment insurance, employee retention, and risk insurance must also address the unique challenges and realities that nonprofits face.

America’s charitable nonprofits need business continuity relief

Millions of jobs in America’s charitable sector are at risk unless a reliable source of cash can be provided to assure continued operations. And in many cases the scope of operations will need to expand to accommodate increased demand for vital services. The survival of many of America’s charities is jeopardized by unprecedented revenue losses from closed programming and services offered, as well as anticipated shortfalls in fundraising. America’s charitable nonprofits, which are so essential to a healthy economy, need a reliable source of cash over the next several weeks and months to ensure we can continue to serve our communities.

Policy Solution: America’s charitable nonprofits request $60 billion in emergency stimulus funding aimed at helping adversely affected national and local organizations. These funds can be distributed quickly through multiple funding streams, including, but not limited to, expansion of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program for nonprofit employers, emergency grants to nonprofits operating under grants from federal, state, local, or other pass-through entities, and other to ensure the continued flow of charitable donations.

Policy Solution: To incentivize all Americans to support the vital work of America’s charities, we call on Congress to enact an “above-the-line” or universal charitable deduction for contributions through the end of 2021. Further, to help those who step forward to help America’s charitable organizations immediately assist the most vulnerable, Congress should permit taxpayers to
donate today – at the height of the pandemic – and claim the benefit from these deductions on
2019 tax returns.

America’s charitable nonprofit employees must be protected

The workers in America’s charities are on the frontlines of the coronavirus response. Our workers are the
backbone of the food banks, shelters, domestic violence services, houses of worship, early care and
education centers, after-school facilities, and more that are being called on to feed, house, and care for
people whose lives have been disrupted by closures, job loss, and sickness.

Policy Solution: Every charity in America, regardless of size, that provides paid family and
medical leave should receive a tax credit the organization can use. We applaud the HR 6201
approach to provide a payroll tax credit to all employers of a certain size (including charities and
other nonprofits) providing emergency paid family leave and sick time pay for care related to the
coronavirus. Congress should provide payroll tax credits to all charities, regardless of size, that
provide such paid family leave and sick time pay as a result of the coronavirus.

America’s Charitable Nonprofits Are in Every Community Ready to Serve

Everywhere in America charitable organizations are already in place serving the needs of residents.
Every dollar granted, donated, or earned goes back into the community immediately to address clear and
present problems. Charities are our economy’s shock absorber when crisis hits.

Signing Organizations

Accord Network                              Americans for the Arts
ACCSES – The Voice of Disability Service    Anti-Defamation League
       Providers                               Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Adult & Teen Challenge USA                  ASAE
Adventure Cycling Association              Association on American Indian Affairs
Afterschool Alliance                       Association of Art Museum Directors
American Society on Aging                  Association of Children's Residential Centers
Agudath Israel of America                  (ACRC)
Alliance for Peacebuilding                 Association of Public Health Laboratories
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities Association of the United States Navy
Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Association of University Centers on
Alliance to End Hunger                      Disabilities (AUCD)
Alzheimer's Association                     Best Buddies International
America’s Promise Alliance                  Bethany Christian Services
American Alliance of Museums               Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
American Cancer Society Cancer Action      Blinded Veterans Association (BVA)
       Network                                Boy Scouts of America
American Diabetes Association              Boys & Girls Clubs of America
America Forward                            Boys Town
American Heart Association                 Bread for the World
American Indian College Fund               CADCA
American Leprosy Missions                  Call of the Sea
American Library Association               Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood
American Lung Association                  Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and
American Trails                             Practice
American Public Health Association         CARE
American Red Cross                         Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Medical Mission Board
Catholic Relief Services
Center for Community Progress
Center for Public Justice
CenterLink
Chabad on Campus International
ChildFund International
Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)
Christian Broadcasting Network, Inc.
Christian Connections for International Health
Church Alliance
Church World Service
Citizen Schools
Citygate Network
City Year
Clooney Foundation for Justice
Collective Liberty
Communities In Schools National Office
Community Action Partnership
Community Anti- Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA)
Compassion International
Consumer Reports
Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU)
Council on Foundations
Council on International Educational Exchange
Dance/USA
David Brower Center
Disabled Children's Fund
East Coast Greenway Alliance
Encore.org
Epilepsy Foundation
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Environmental Volunteers
The Episcopal Church
Exponent Philanthropy
Faith & Giving Coalition
FoodCorps
Food for the Hungry
Futures Without Violence
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Generations United
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity International
Haddassah, the Women’s Zionist Organization of America
Healing Household 6
Healthy Schools Campaign
Helen Keller International
Hetrick-Martin Institute
IDEAS
Independent Sector
Institute of International Education
InterAction
InterExchange, Inc.
International Rescue Committee
Islamic Relief USA
Jewish Community Centers (JCC) Association of North America
Jewish Federations of North America
Jumpstart
Lakeshore Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Landesa
Leadership 18
League of American Orchestras
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lutheran Services in America
MAMA Project
March of Dimes
Mazon, a Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
Mental Health America
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
The Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
Muscular Dystrophy Association
NACE International
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Evangelicals
National Audubon Society
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
National Council of Nonprofits
National Council on Aging
National Environmental Health Association
National Fitness Foundation
National Health Council
National Human Services Assembly
National Indian Child Welfare League
National Indian Health Board
National Kidney Foundation
National Latino Evangelical Coalition
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network for Youth  
National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)  
National Organization of State Associations for Children (NOSAC)  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Native American Rights Fund  
Native Ways Federation  
NatureBridge  
New Profit  
Nonprofit Alliance  
Nonprofit Leadership Alliance  
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists  
Notre Dame Mission Volunteers  
OPERA America  
Playworks  
Prevent Blindness  
Prevent Child Abuse America  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Reading Partners  
Rebuilding Together  
RESOLVE  
Safe States Alliance  
Saint Francis Ministries  
The Salvation Army National Headquarters  
Save Our Shores  
Search for Common Ground  
Smart Growth America (SGA)  
Sojourners  
Special Olympics International  
Student Conservation Association  
Susan G. Komen  
Teach For America  
The Corps Network  
The Independence Fund  
The Sentry  
TREA: The Enlisted Association  
Trust for America’s Health  
TSNE MissionWorks  
UCP National  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Philanthropy Forum  
United Spinal Association  
U.S. Soccer Foundation  
United Way Worldwide  
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America  
Union for Reform Judaism  
VetsFirst  
VisionServe Alliance  
Volunteers of America  
Wilderness Inquiry  
World Learning  
World Relief  
Wounded Warrior Project  
Year Up  
YMCA of the USA  
YouthBuild USA  
YWCA USA