

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Democratic Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate

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

On behalf of charitable nonprofits across the country, **we urge you to pass bipartisan, bicameral appropriations bills that support resources for individuals, families, and communities. If appropriation measures cannot be passed by the end of the fiscal year, we encourage you to pass a continuing resolution and avert a government shutdown, offering time to complete the budget before the end of 2023.**

Charitable nonprofits represent the nation's third largest employment sector, with more than 12 million employees who are at the forefront of helping Americans through difficult times. These charities provide everything from food and shelter to medical and mental health services to education and cultural and spiritual support. Yet, at a time when Americans need these services the most, donations and other earned revenue sources continue to decline as demand for many services continues to grow. Americans turn to charitable nonprofits for a variety of reasons, whether they are recovering from a natural disaster, seeking meals for their families, re-skilling for a changing workforce, seeking educational supports for their children, or a myriad of other reasons.

We know from experience that the real-world consequences of a federal government shutdown would be catastrophic for the populations our organizations serve and that you represent. Government programs would come to a halt, and as is often the case, individuals in crisis would turn to our organizations in even greater numbers. Further, payments and renewals for government grants and contracts would cease, causing untold disruptions of programs and threatening the organizations upon which so many rely.

**As you work to keep your communities healthy, safe, and secure, we once again urge you to avert a government shutdown and pass a bipartisan, bicameral appropriations bill that adequately funds key programs that impact the lives of Americans.**

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance  
American Alliance of Museums

American Heart Association  
American Lung Association

Association of Art Museum Directors  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Council on Foundations  
Covenant House International  
Dance/USA  
Family Focused Treatment Association  
Futures Without Violence  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
Girlstart  
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.  
Habitat for Humanity International  
Independent Sector  
League of American Orchestras  
Lutheran Services in America  
Meals on Wheels America  
Mental Health America

MENTOR  
National Afterschool Association  
National Community Action Partnership  
National Council of Nonprofits  
National Health Council  
OPERA America  
Save the Children  
Social Current  
Starr Commonwealth  
The Nonprofit Alliance  
Theatre Communications Group  
United Philanthropy Forum  
United Way Worldwide  
Volunteers of America  
YMCA of the USA  
YWCA USA