

Coronavirus Response

We've been leveraging the strengths of the nation's largest network of nonprofits to inform and coordinate responses to the novel coronavirus disease outbreak. For the last two weeks, we've focused on facilitating communications among leaders across our nationwide network so they have trusted information to distribute to nonprofits in their states. We've been collecting information and insights daily from our member state associations of nonprofits, uncovering material from other sources, curating and synthesizing that information, and then sending a nightly update to the state association leaders so they can save time by having ready access to the best external resources and examples from their colleagues across the country. Tomorrow we'll have our second network-wide call scheduled for state associations to ask questions and exchange information.

For nonprofits across the country, we've posted a streamlined version of suggested action steps and useful resources on our website, at [Nonprofits and Coronavirus, COVID-19](#). We will continue meeting as a network to exchange COVID-19 resources that support nonprofits as well as share what we learn from frontline nonprofits about what they need/will need as the situation evolves.

The lead article of [yesterday's edition](#) of our bi-weekly policy newsletter, *Nonprofit Advocacy Matters*, entitled "The Public Policy Responses to the Coronavirus Outbreak," reported what the federal and state governments are doing. And our regular feature of Advocacy in Action showcased how "[The Nonprofit Community Confronts the Coronavirus](#)," including what state associations are doing for the nonprofits in their states:

"Getting trusted information out:

"State associations of nonprofits across our nationwide network have been exchanging information they're discovering about the fast-moving novel disease. After curating the best information about appropriate actions, they're each tailoring the information and ideas specifically for nonprofits in their states, including information from their own state and local health officials when possible. The network's quick response to this unfolding crisis reinforces the power of networks, which enable a much broader reach of eyes, ears, and minds to gather and analyze data, while also offering the ability to customize information so it addresses local needs. Plus, the most effective communications come from trusted partners who are committed to facts, science, and safety. To illustrate, here's just a sampling of materials prepared by state associations of nonprofits in [Alaska](#), [Colorado](#), [Delaware](#), [Florida](#), [Idaho](#), [Kentucky](#), [Maine](#), [Maryland](#), [Massachusetts](#), [Minnesota](#), [Montana](#), [New Jersey](#), [New Mexico](#), [New York City](#), [North Carolina](#), [Oregon](#), [Vermont](#), and [Washington State](#)."

Vu Le, in his March 8 blog post, "[A few things for nonprofits and foundations to consider in light of the Coronavirus](#)" (Nonprofit AF), highlighted, "Here are some great [recommendations from Washington Nonprofits](#) on talking to your team and planning a response." He also urged foundations:

"More funding needs to go to intermediary organizations: State associations and capacity building organizations play vital roles in connecting nonprofits, disseminating timely information, and leading collective actions, all essential during crises like potential pandemics. And yet these organizations are constantly fighting for survival as funders and donors gravitate toward missions that are easier to explain or tug at heartstrings more. Looking at the responses to COVID-19, it's clear many of us are uncoordinated and uncertain. **We have to strengthen how we are organized, and this includes understanding the crucial roles intermediary organizations play. Funders need to fund them, and nonprofits should join as members."**
(emphasis added)