

United States Senate

April XX, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Shelby, and Vice Chairman Leahy:

As you work on the next legislative package to address the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we strongly encourage you to ensure that nonprofits are protected by including \$60 billion in emergency funding. Nonprofits provide essential social services for many Americans, including food, shelter, and medical services. During this public health crisis, communities nationwide are relying on nonprofit services to survive—more and more each day. At the same time as this increased demand, nonprofits are facing significant economic hardship.

Providing the nonprofit sector increased emergency funding for targeted state formula grants and programs will ensure that national and local organizations can maintain a continuity of services. These funds must be distributed quickly through multiple existing funding streams, including emergency grants to nonprofits operating under existing federal grants, as well as through sub-grantees for state or local governments, or other pass-through entities.

For example:

- An additional \$55 million for the *Family Violence Prevention and Services Act* programs will help service providers to prevent and respond to family and domestic violence, including shelter and supportive services for those who need it;
- An additional \$3.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant will assist child care providers as they provide emergency child care for first responders and essential workers, ensuring that these providers are able to remain open;
- An additional \$500 million for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program will allow afterschool and summer learning programs to provide services to keep children on track academically through this school year and the summer, and even into the next school year; and

- An additional \$100 million to expand the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration programs for national out-of-school time organizations to help support essential-skills development, career exposure, employability & certification and work-based learning.

These are a few of the existing funding streams that the next coronavirus package should support with an increase in appropriations to meet an immediate need. The *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* was a positive first step to aid the nonprofit sector. The nonprofit community will continue to play an essential role in coronavirus response, and we need them to scale up and meet an increase in demand. A rapid infusion of funds to nonprofit organizations that are partnering with state and local governments will help frontline responders and vulnerable families.

As we draft legislation both to mitigate and recover from this pandemic, we must give nonprofits the support they need to lead their communities out of this crisis. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator

United States Senator