

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

Florida's charities request \$60 billion infusion of support to help the most vulnerable

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic facing Florida and 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. Florida'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, Florida'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.

Florida's charitable nonprofits along with all other American 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

- Florida nonprofits employ 534,000 workers. We need to retain them.
- Generate \$90 billion in annual revenue.
- Florida Nonprofits are on the frontlines serving people, especially those in need. We need business continuity relief.
- Generate \$26 billion in annual wages. 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.

Florida's charitable nonprofits are significant employers

Florida's nonprofits employ over 534,000 people, with payrolls comparable to other industries, including construction, manufacturing 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.

Florida's charitable nonprofits need business continuity relief

Thousands of jobs in Florida'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.

Florida's charitable nonprofit employees must be protected

The workers in Florida'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.

Florida's Charitable Nonprofits Are in Every Community Ready to Serve

Everywhere in Florida 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.