



Date: March 22, 2021

To: Governor Tim Walz  
Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan  
Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka  
Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent  
Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman  
House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler  
House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt

From: Susie Brown, Minnesota Council on Foundations  
Acooa Ellis, Greater Twin Cities United Way  
Doris Pagelkopf, United Ways of Minnesota  
Steve Houtz, Metropolitan Alliance of Connected Communities  
Jon Pratt, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

CC: Senator Michelle Benson  
Management & Budget Commissioner Jim Schowalter  
Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove  
Administration Commissioner Alice Roberts-Davis  
Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead  
Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm  
Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington  
Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell

**RE: Urgent Recommendation to Establish a COVID-19 Nonprofit Resiliency & Recovery Fund**

Thank you for your leadership this legislative session and over the past year in response to COVID-19. We are writing on behalf of more than 9,000 Minnesota nonprofit employers asking for immediate action to create a nonprofit resiliency and recovery fund, which would provide critical investment in the nonprofit organizations delivering essential services to Minnesotans across the state.

Nonprofits are well-positioned to effectively identify and address local needs and priorities – especially in response to the pandemic and its challenges. The sector’s deep experience and commitment to the well-being of every one of our community members in all phases of their life uniquely positions us to help our community navigate this crisis and the long-term rebuilding process that will follow. Representing 13% of Minnesota’s workforce, nonprofits play a key role in Minnesota’s infrastructure, engaging directly with residents and connecting them to state resources and programs.

This community infrastructure is critical. These organizations strengthen community wellness and economic vitality for people across the state. However, after a year of converging crises, these organizations have played an essential role that has been critical in maintaining community



infrastructure necessary to manage an effective COVID-19 response while also building toward long-term recovery.

Increased demand for services and the resulting costs of operating during a pandemic have outpaced revenues for nonprofits. According to the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits' State of Nonprofits report, 72% of organizations surveyed reported having less than six months of available cash reserves, and 40% reported no operating reserve. This has forced many nonprofits to reduce their budgets, programming and hours. At the same time, nearly 40% of the state's nonprofit workers filed for unemployment insurance due to reduced hours, temporary furlough or job loss.

Funding shortfalls and a diminished workforce are making it difficult for nonprofits to serve our communities to the full extent needed. This includes their capacity to serve Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, further widening racial disparities and systemic inequities.

We know that the increased demand for nonprofit services will continue well beyond 2021, and philanthropy and private donations alone cannot sustain our organizations. By leveraging federal emergency relief funds to support Minnesota's nonprofit sector we can maintain the ability to address current needs and create jobs – both critical to improving recovery outcomes for communities across the state.

On behalf of Minnesota's nonprofits, we ask for your support for and swift action in favor of a nonprofit resiliency and recovery fund.

If you have questions, please contact:

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Kristen Rosenberger, GTCUW, at 612-340-7409, or [kristen.rosenberger@gtcuw.org](mailto:kristen.rosenberger@gtcuw.org)

AchieveMpls  
Alexandra House, Inc.  
Alexandria Area Community Foundation  
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation  
Appetite For Change  
Asian American Organizing Project  
Avenues for Youth  
Banyan Community  
Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota  
Breaking Free  
Caponi Art Park  
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
Center For Economic Inclusion

Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization  
Central Minnesota Community Foundation  
Central MN Re-Entry Project  
Centro Tyrone Guzman  
Change Inc.  
Chicago Avenue Fire Arts Center  
Children's Health Ministries  
Christdala Preservation Association  
Community Action Center of Northfield  
CommunityGiving & Partner Foundations  
Cornerstone Advocacy Service  
Crisis Line and Referral Service  
Crow River Trail Guards



Division of Indian Work  
Duluth Community School Collaborative  
Edenbrook  
Emerge Community Development  
Emma Norton Services  
Engage Winona  
Family Enhancement Center  
Family Pathways Hunger Relief  
Family Service Rochester  
Family Values For Life  
Farmamerica-MN Agricultural Interpretive Center  
Frank Theatre  
Fraser  
GiveMN  
Global Health Services Incorporation  
Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota  
GRACE House of Itasca County  
Grand Marais Art Colony  
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery  
Guild  
Habitat for Humanity Winona-Fillmore Counties  
Hamm Memorial Psychiatric Clinic  
Headwaters Foundation for Justice  
Headway Emotional Health Services  
Her Voice Productions  
Hidden Resources for People of Color  
Highpoint Center for Printmaking  
Hired  
Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County  
Home and Community Options, Inc.  
HOPE 4 Youth  
ICA Food Shelf  
Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts  
Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners  
Irreducible Grace Foundation  
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Minneapolis  
Keystone Community Services  
LDA Minnesota  
LegalCORPS  
Loaves & Fishes MN  
Mankato Youth Place

Merrick Community Services  
Midwest Conservation Center  
Minneapolis High Rise Representative Council (MHRC)  
Minnesota Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Minnesota Alliance of YMCA's  
Minnesota Alliance With Youth  
Minnesota Children's Museum  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Minnesota Guitar Society  
Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance  
Minnesota, Quilter's, Inc.  
MN Urban Debate League, Program of Augsburg University  
NEW LIFE POSSIBILITIES, LLC  
North Shore Health Care Foundation  
Northeast Contemporary Services, Inc.  
Northside Economic Opportunity Network  
Northwest Minnesota Foundation  
Open Access Connections  
Open Cities Health Center  
Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless  
Our Justice  
Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs)  
PHASE-Industries  
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center  
Pillsbury United Communities  
Ragamala Dance Company  
River Valley Riders  
Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation  
Science Museum of Minnesota  
SEWA-AIFW  
Share-A-Home, Inc.  
SMITH co LLC  
Someplace Safe  
South Sudanese community of Minnesota  
Southwest Initiative Foundation  
Springboard for the Arts  
St Stephens Human Services and DBA House of Charity  
Star Legacy Foundation  
Telling Queer History  
The Center for Victims of Torture



The Crossing Arts Alliance  
The Family Partnership  
The Italian Cultural Center of Minneapolis/St. Paul  
The Link  
The Sheltering Arms Foundation  
Touchstone Mental Health  
Tubman  
Udac, Inc.  
United Cambodian Association of Minnesota  
United Way of Carlton County  
United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties  
United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties  
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota  
United Way of Steele County  
Urban Strategies, Inc.

Valley Outreach  
Vietnamese Social Services  
VINE Faith in Action  
VocalEssence  
WellShare International  
Western Communities Action Network (WeCAN)  
Will Work for Recovery  
Willmar Area Community Foundation  
Winona Nonprofit Alliance  
Women of Nations  
Women's Environmental Institute at Amador Hill  
World Savvy  
Youthprise  
YWCA Mankato  
YWCA St. Paul