April Advocacy Alert 4/21/2020

Tell Congress that Non-Profits Need Help in 4th Stimulus Bill

As of April 20, Congress is still debating about the details of a fourth stimulus package in response to COVID-19. PANO and 33 other nonprofit associations and funders used a version of the National Council of Nonprofit’s letter to reach out to our Pennsylvania delegation.

While the Paycheck Protection Program has helped small businesses, many non profit organizations have not received this assistance to ensure their future operations.

10,000 Friends is joining PANO to advocate for a stimulus package that provides critical assistance to non-profit and community organizations across Pennsylvania. NOW is the time for you to reach out to your representative/senator to join in this effort.

Please call and email your elected officials with the following language:

We need your help now to ensure that nonprofits in XXX (your county) get the support we need to get through the COVID-19 crisis. You know that implementation challenges have arisen with federal and state agencies and private entities that have undermined Congressional intent to provide economic relief to nonprofits.

As you work through the CARES Act 2.0, please ensure that 10,000 Friends of PA and other charities receive much needed assistance by allocating dedicated and/or additional funding specifically for charities in the Paycheck Protection Program. Specifically, we urge Congress to include the following clarifications and provisions:

1. **Expand Nonprofit Access to Credit** by designating funding exclusively for nonprofits within the two principle loan programs established in the CARES Act to ensure that we are not pushed to the back of the line. The following additional improvements are needed to expedite relief:
   - a. **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**: Provide incentives to private lenders to prioritize processing of applications of nonprofits, especially small nonprofits.
   - b. **Mid-Size Business Loan Program**: Adjust CARES Act Section 4003 (c)(3)(D) to implement a program to support nonprofit employers with between 500 and 10,000 employees, including loan-forgiveness and other provisions. The legislation should direct the Treasury Department to have this program operational no later than 15 days after enactment.
2. **Strengthen Charitable Giving Incentives** to encourage all Americans to help their communities through charitable donations during this time. The following modifications will generate immediate results:

- **a. Applicable to 2019 Tax Filings:** Encourage donations to the work of charitable organizations in their communities today by enabling taxpayers making donations on or after March 13 (date of national emergency declaration) and before July 16 to claim the deductions on their 2019 tax filings. This retroactive application should apply to itemized and above-the-line deductions during this critical period.

- **b. Improve the Above-the-Line Deduction** in the CARES Act by increasing the $300/person cap and making the deduction permanent.

3. **Treat Self-Funded Nonprofits Fairly** by increasing the federal unemployment insurance reimbursement for self-insured nonprofits to 100% of the costs.

4. **Increase Emergency Funding** by appropriating funds for targeted state formula grants and programs that can provide a rapid infusion of cash to nonprofit organizations that are partnering with state and local governments to protect vulnerable families and frontline responders.

Thank you for your partnership, and for speaking on behalf of non profit and community organizations.

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**Non Profit and Community Organization Survey:**

**5 Fast Questions** for PANO: Have you been successful or unsuccessful in obtaining a PPP or EIDL loan? Please answer five fast questions which will help us give our delegation information about the success or the lack thereof in Pennsylvania.

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**Food for Thought: Learning from the 2009 Recovery Act**

As a potential COVID-19 recession looms and Congress debates the 4th, 5th, and potentially 6th stimulus packages, all signs point to an infrastructure package in the near future. There are valuable lessons to be learned from a look back to 2009. Transportation for America and Smart Growth America’s new short report, *Learning from the 2009 Recovery Act*, provides six lessons and six recommendations from evaluating the Recovery Act over 10 years ago.

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Be well,

Stacie

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