



## **Nonprofits are Essential – Especially Now**

In this moment of national crisis, the charitable nonprofit sector stands as an irreplaceable partner to cities, states and the federal government. We have the experience, relationships, and ingenuity to buffer communities against the worst impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and to support the recovery effort that lies ahead. Our work, our expertise and our mission-driven mindset are more vital than ever.

The CARES Act took important first steps to recognize the nonprofit sector's capacity to meet escalating community needs by including some favorable provisions — but much more is needed. In crafting relief packages and designing response plans, we can't afford to overlook the nonprofit sector. We urge Congress to increase financial resources for the nonprofit sector in the following ways:

- 1. Designate funding exclusively for nonprofits within the two main loan programs created by the CARES Act.**

Nonprofits like Goodwill® are partnering with others on the frontlines and providing services to those impacted by COVID-19. Charitable nonprofits of all sizes need additional relief. Many nonprofits, including the majority of local Goodwill organizations, have more than 500 employees and aren't eligible for one of the most-requested relief options — the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). We urge Congress to either remove the employee caps of the PPP or create a similar program with loan forgiveness for nonprofits that employ more than 500 people.

- 2. Strengthen charitable giving incentives beyond the \$300 deduction for 2020.**

The CARES Act created a temporary \$300 non-itemized charitable tax deduction, but more is needed when the demands on nonprofits are rising as resources are being greatly strained. For example, United Way is finding that requests for help — with basics like rent and food — have increased 200 to 400 percent in most parts of the country since late February. Nonprofits are on the frontlines of the crisis response and their needs are greatly expanding.

An unlimited, above-the-line charitable tax deduction is required to help Americans better support the nonprofits that are responding during this crisis. Research shows that the charitable tax deduction is an incentive for people, who may already be inclined to give, to give more. We urge Congress to strengthen charitable giving incentives by removing the cap on giving and extending the timeline for the deduction to encourage all Americans to help their communities through monetary donations during these challenging times.

- 3. Increase emergency funding by appropriating funds for targeted state formula grants and programs that can provide a rapid infusion of funding to nonprofit organizations.**

Nonprofits like YWCA urgently need additional federal grant funding to support community-based human services. YWCA is a national leader in providing childcare, housing and domestic violence services, and we are in most urgent need of additional grant funding through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care program, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG). Across the nonprofit sector, additional emergency federal grant funding is also needed to support summer programs for children, meals for seniors and other critical relief efforts.

**4. Increase the federal unemployment insurance reimbursement for self-funded nonprofits to 100 percent of costs.**

Please see [Nonprofit Track Reforms to the CARES Act](#) for additional details.

## **OUR COVID-19 WORK**

### **YWCA USA**

YWCA's national network of more than 200 local associations across 46 states and the District of Columbia advances our mission to eliminate racism and empower women by offering vital services in more than 1,000 communities around the United States. Just as in 1918 when the influenza pandemic struck, YWCA is on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis. Here's a snapshot of our work:

- 32 YWCAs are providing childcare for first responders and essential workers in communities like El Paso, TX; New Britain, CT; Alexandria, LA; Kalamazoo, MI; and San Antonio, TX.
- 124 YWCAs are providing safe housing for low-income women, families and veterans — including 77 YWCAs that provide emergency shelter to survivors of domestic and sexual violence — in communities like Clinton, IA; Fargo, ND; Bellingham, WA; and Detroit, MI.
- 70 YWCAs are operating emergency hotlines, counseling and legal services to women and families in need of safety from domestic and sexual violence in communities like Oklahoma City, OK; Dayton, OH; Union County, NJ; Pueblo, CO; and San Gabriel Valley, CA.
- And many more are providing legal advocacy, counseling, supervised visitation and support services to children and families experiencing trauma.

Learn more online about [YWCA USA](#), our [national network](#) and our [COVID-19 Emergency Relief and Community Resilience Fund](#).

### **GOODWILL INDUSTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

Nearly 80 percent of Goodwill organizations are providing vital mission services despite the devastating effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. These Goodwills have transitioned to providing online learning and virtual training, and they are hosting virtual job fairs.

In communities everywhere, Goodwill organizations are responding in creative ways to the health and economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In Canton, OH, and Huntington, VA, Goodwill organizations are operating drive-thru food banks.
- In the Sarasota, FL, region, Goodwill is donating 100-percent cotton shirts to a local group that is creating masks for local hospitals.
- In Des Moines, IA, Goodwill is collecting and donating items to people who are homeless.
- In Charlotte, NC, and Fort Worth, TX, Goodwill is upskilling trainees and keeping them engaged using Zoom and Google Classroom.
- In Orange County, CA, and in locations across the country, Goodwill is providing trucks and equipment to Feeding America for food deliveries.
- Several Goodwill organizations are using their donation sites to collect first aid supplies — such as unused gloves, masks and hand sanitizer — and providing them to thousands of local medical personnel.
- In Little Rock, AR, Goodwill trucks and other equipment are supporting hospitals and food banks.
- In Missouri and Kansas, Goodwill is manufacturing masks using donated shirts.
- In Traverse City, MI, Goodwill is accepting critically needed supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) to donate to local nonprofits in need, including Munson Healthcare, Coalition to End Homelessness/Goodwill Inn/Street Outreach, Food Rescue/Northwest Food Coalition, and the American Red Cross.
- In Rochester, NY, Goodwill is staffing an information hotline. Through this hotline, Goodwill is:
  - Connecting tens of thousands of essential resources such as food and hand sanitizer for community organizations that serve at-risk populations.
  - Connecting thousands of individuals to needed services via 211lifeline.org, a program that allows community members to dial 211 to get connected with experienced telecounselors for free and confidential assistance.
  - Helping people gain access to basic resources (such as food, clothing and shelter) and crisis stabilization.

To learn more and find your local Goodwill, visit [www.goodwill.org](http://www.goodwill.org) or call 1-800-GOODWILL.

## UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE

For more than 130 years, United Way has stepped up whenever our communities need us. In the United States, United Way is in 95 percent of all communities and is the largest private funder of human services in the country. Right now, United Way is mobilizing people and organizations to provide critical services and vital information for those in need.

When shuttered schools mean children from low-wage families may not be eating breakfast and lunch, United Way is working with schools and fellow nonprofits to ensure kids get fed. When food pantries are overwhelmed — partially because people who used to donate are now in need of food — United Way is providing additional funds, food and volunteers. And when people who've lost jobs need help with the basics, United Way is connecting them to available local resources.

United Way Worldwide's **COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery Fund** is giving grants to local United Ways and **211**, the go-to information resource, to help meet these needs and more. Some 95 percent of all donations will support the most vulnerable among us. Calls to 211 continue to rise and, at the current rate, will outpace in 6 months what we usually see in an entire year.