Non-Profit Community Letter to the New Jersey Congressional Delegation

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate

The Honorable Donald Norcross
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Andy Kim
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Christopher Smith
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Malinowski
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Albio Sires
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable William Pascrell, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
United States House of Representatives

Dear Senators Menendez and Booker and Representatives Gottheimer, Kim, Malinowski, Norcross, Pallone, Pascrell, Payne, Sherrill, Smith, Watson-Coleman, Sires, and Van Drew,

New Jersey’s charitable non-profit community – which provides vital programs and services and accounts for nearly 10% of our state’s private work force – continues to struggle in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The CARES Act includes significant relief for charitable organizations by including non-profits in the emergency loan programs, extending unemployment benefits to many non-profit employees, and providing a modest tax incentive for charitable giving. We are deeply appreciative of this relief, but the sheer magnitude of the pandemic means that more help is needed.

Last week, a unified group of major national organizations issued a set of recommendations (attached) for modifications to the CARES Act that will help preserve non-profits’ ability to provide essential services at this time of greatest need. We fully support these recommendations, and we seek your assistance in ensuring that they are included in the fourth COVID-19 stimulus bill that Congress passes. Specifically, non-profits need the following four modifications to the CARES Act:

1. **Expand access to credit.** Expanding non-profits’ access to credit to provide for immediate financial relief by expanding non-profit eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and by establishing a dedicated funding stream for PPP loans to non-profit organizations.
2. **Bolster charitable giving incentives.** Strengthening temporary above-the-line charitable deduction from the CARES Act by allowing taxpayers to use it on the 2019 taxes, significantly increasing the $300 cap, and extending it beyond 2020.

3. **Protect self-insured non-profits.** Holding harmless self-insured non-profits by providing funding to cover 100% of the costs of these organizations’ unemployment claims. Without this change, many non-profits that provide health care, food assistance, affordable housing, childcare, and other critical services will have to end or curtail services later this year.

4. **Support non-profits providing essential services during the crisis.** Increase emergency funding so that non-profits can work with state and local governments to provide essential services to vulnerable families and frontline responders to the COVID-19 crisis.

The CARES Act was an important first step in helping non-profits during the COVID-19 crisis. We hope you and your colleagues in Congress can make these important modifications to help non-profits continue to provide essential programs and services in our communities.

Please feel free to reach out to Linda Czipo or Doug Schoenberger at the Center for Non-Profits (lczipo@njnonprofits.org or doug@njnonprofits.org) for additional information about any of these issues.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your leadership during this critical time.

Sincerely,

10 Hairy Legs
21 Plus, Inc.
4CS of Passaic County, Inc.
Acenda Integrated Health
Advocates for Children of NJ
Alice Paul Institute
Alliance for New Jersey Environmental Education
ANCHOR HOUSE, INC
Art Educators of New Jersey (AENJ)
Art House Productions, Inc
ArtPride New Jersey
Arts For Muds Inc.
Atlantic City Arts Foundation
Atlantic Prevention Resources
ATNJ Education Fund
Better Tomorrows
Bierly Consulting
Boys & Girls Club of Garfield
Boys & Girls Clubs in New Jersey
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lodi & Hackensack
Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey
Brookdale Community College Foundation
Burlington Township Food Pantry
Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers
Cape Assist
Center For Family Services
Center for Non-Profits
Children's Aid and Family Services, Inc.
Clean Ocean Action
Clean Water Advocacy Center
Coastal Habitat for Humanity
Collier Youth Services
Community Access Unlimited
Community in Crisis
Community Psychiatric Institute
Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Conservatory Of Music and Performing Arts Society
COPE Center, Inc.
Cornerstone Family Programs
Covenant House NJ, Inc.
Creative Capacity, LLC
Creative New Jersey
Daytop Village of New Jersey, Inc.
DSN Community Center
DT EXTENDED HANDS OF NJ
Eastern Environmental Law Center
Easterseals New Jersey
ECHO, Inc.
Educational Arts Team
Emmanuel Cancer Foundation
Englewood Health
Enrollment Management Association
Erik James Montgomery Foundation
Famcare, Inc.
Family Connections
Family Promise of Morris County NJ
Family Resource Associates, Inc.
Far Hills Country Day School
Finderne First Aid and Rescue Squad Inc
First Friends of NJ & NY
First Tee Raritan Valley
Freedom House
Gail P. Stone Events, Inc.
Garfield YMCA
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
GIERS: Grief Information Education Recovery Services
GlassRoots
Goodwill Industries of Greater New York and Northern New Jersey, Inc.
Grunin Foundation
Habitat for Humanity in Monmouth County
Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County
Healey Education Foundation
Healey International Relief Foundation
Holiday Express Inc.
Homeless Solutions, Inc.
Homeless To Independence Inc.
HomeWorks Trenton
HOPE FOR CHILDREN FOUNDATION, NJ
Hopewell Valley YMCA
Hunterdon Helpline
Ideas Beyond Borders
Institute of Music for Children
Integrity House
Jeffrey Sobel Consulting
Jewish Family Service & Children’s Center of Clifton/Passaic
Jewish Family Services of Middlesex County
Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest
Jewish Federation of Southern New Jersey
Jewish Federations of New Jersey
Latinas in Business Inc.
Lght to Earth Sanctuary
Long Beach Island Community Center (St. Francis Community Center)
MAG Net II
Main Street Burlington NJ
Make-A-Wish New Jersey
Managing Change LLC
Mane Stream
Medina Community Clinic
Mercer Council
Middle Earth
Monmouth Conservation Foundation
Monmouth County Historical Association
Moorestown Visiting Nurse Association, Inc.
New Jersey Blind Citizens Association, Inc.
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, Inc.
New Brunswick Tomorrow
New Eyes for the Needy, Inc.
New Jersey Adventist Community Services
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
New Jersey Association on Correction
New Jersey Prevention Network
New Jersey State Museum Foundation
New Jersey Tree Foundation
New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
New Jersey YMCA State Alliance
NewBridge Services
NJ Center for the Healing Arts
NJ Community Capital
NJSACC, the Statewide Network for NJ’s Afterschool Communities
North Jersey Friendship House
Oaks Integrated Care
Ocean County YMCA
Palestinian American Community Center
Parkside Business & Community In Partnership, Inc.
Partners for Health Foundation
Partners in Prevention
Passaic River Coalition
PRAB, Inc.
Preferred Behavioral Health Group
Princeton-Blairstown Center
Puerto Rican Action Committee of Southern NJ.
Pushcart Players, Inc.
Rabbi Pesach Raymon Yeshiva
Randolph YMCA
Riverfront Renaissance Center for the Arts
Seabrook House, Inc
Sourland Conservancy
Special Strides, Inc
St. Francis' Feral Cat Sanctuary Organization
Strengthen Teens and Reach Inner-city Vital Environments (STRIVE)
The Center for Alcohol and Drug Resources
The Connection for Women and Families
The Displaced Homemakers Network of NJ, Inc.
The Growing Stage - The Children’s Theatre of New Jersey
The Hebrew Academy of New Jersey
The Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey
The Leadership Group
The Life Raft Group
The Munshine Group, LLC
The Newark Museum of Art
The Southwest Council, Inc.
The Suppers Programs, Inc.
The Supportive Housing Association of NJ
The Teal Tea Foundation
The Watershed Institute
The Westfield Foundation
Trenton Area Soup Kitchen
Turning Point, Inc.
Two Containers & A Jet
U.S Equestrian Team Foundation
UCMP
Victoria Foundation
Vision Loss Alliance of New Jersey
Volunteer Center of South Jersey
VolunteerConnect
Waterfront Alliance
Wheaton Arts and Cultural Center
Women’s Rights Information Center
Yeshivat Netivot Montessori
YWCA Princeton
The charitable nonprofit community appreciates that several key relief programs in the CARES Act were modified to include nonprofit eligibility. This approach recognizes the significant role that charitable nonprofits play as the third largest employer in our nation’s economy and as valued problem solvers. We are grateful that Congress recognized that every dollar granted, donated, or earned goes back into the community immediately to address clear and present challenges. However, implementation challenges have arisen with federal agencies and private entities that undermine Congressional intent to provide economic relief for nonprofit organizations.

As you work to build on the CARES Act, the charitable nonprofit sector requests a Nonprofit Track to ensure that charitable nonprofits are supported in their service on the front lines of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. 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 principal loan programs established in the CARES Act to ensure that the organizations dedicated to addressing immediate pandemic-related problems are included in relief efforts and not excluded or pushed to the back of the line. The following additional improvements are needed to expedite relief:

   - **Paycheck Protection Program:** Provide incentives to private lenders to prioritize processing of applications of small nonprofits and expand the eligibility for nonprofits to participate in the Paycheck Protection Program by modifying the current 500-employee cap or by other means.
   - **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 these challenging times. The following modifications will generate immediate results:

   - **Applicable to 2019 Tax Filings:** Encourage donations to the work of charitable organizations in their communities today by enabling taxpayers making donations on and 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.
   - **Improve the Above-the-Line Deduction** in CARES Act by increasing the $300/person cap and extending the effective date of the incentive.
3. **Treat Self-Funded Nonprofits Fairly** by increasing the federal unemployment insurance reimbursement for self-funded nonprofits to 100% of costs. As currently written Section 2103 of the CARES Act will subject nonprofits throughout the country to crippling payments to their state unemployment systems later this year, while other employers will likely experience little or no additional costs resulting from mass COVID-19-related layoffs.

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. Charitable nonprofits are on the frontlines of providing relief, support, and care now, while the pandemic rages, and going forward as America will struggle to recover. Organizations need the resources now to provide vital services essential to individual and community wellbeing.

We thank you, once again, for your leadership in crafting and passing the CARES Act. It was a critical first step. We hope that nonprofits can count on your continued leadership, and your insistence that the needs of nonprofits, and the indispensable role they play, are at the center of this relief legislation. And we count on your active engagement with the president to make sure that charitable nonprofits can continue to fulfill their missions, especially in times such as this of unique challenge to our nation.

Sincerely,

Accord Network  
Adult & Teen Challenge  
Afterschool Alliance  
Agudath Israel of America  
Alfalit International  
Allergy & Asthma Network  
Alliance for Peacebuilding  
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities  
Alliance to End Hunger  
Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
Alzheimer's Association  
American Alliance of Museums  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Heart Association  
American Jewish World Service  
AMERICAN LEPROSY MISSIONS  
American Library Association  
American Lung Association  
American Society on Aging  
American Trails  
Americans for the Arts  
Angioma Alliance  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Ar. Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association of Art Museum Directors  
Association of the United States Navy  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Bethany Christian Services  
Beyond Celiac  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America  
Boy Scouts of America  
Boys & Girls Clubs of America  
Boys Town  
Bread for the World  
Bridge the Gap - SYNGAP Education and Research Foundation  
CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America)  
Call of the Sea  
Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood  
CARE USA  
Catholic Charities USA  
Catholic Relief Services  
Center for Conservation Peacebuilding  
Center for Policy Analysis  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
ChildFund International  
Children’s Home Society of America  
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Christian Connections for International Health
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Church Hill Activities and Tutoring (CHAT)
Citizen Schools
City Year, Inc.
Citygate Network
Colorectal Cancer Alliance
Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
COPD Foundation
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council on Foundations
Covenant House International
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cross International
Cure SMA
CureDuchenne
Danielle Byron Henry Migraine Foundation
David Brower Center
Davis Phinney Foundation
Debbie's Dream Foundation: Curing Stomach Cancer
Dignity Freedom Network
Dreamsickle Kids Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
ETS
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)
Exponent Philanthropy
Faith & Giving Coalition
Family Focused Treatment Association
Fight Colorectal Cancer
FoodCorps
GBS-CIDP Foundation International
Generations For Peace Inc.
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girls Inc.
Giving Children Hope
GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Gould Syndrome Foundation
Growing Hope Globally
Habitat for Humanity International
Healing Household 6
Healthy Schools Campaign
Helen Keller International
Hemophilia Federation of America
HIAS
Hoving Home
Hydrocephalus Association
Independent Sector
Institute of International Education
InterAction
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
International Myeloma Foundation
International Rescue Committee
Islamic Relief USA
JCC Staten Island
Jewish Community Centers Association of North America
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Federations of North America
Jumpstart
Lakeshore Foundation
Land Trust Alliance
Langham Partnership USA, INC., NFP
Leadership 18
League of American Orchestras
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Little Miss Hannah Foundation
Living Waters for the World
Lupus Foundation of America
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty
Lutheran Services in America
Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham’s Disease Alliance
March of Dimes
Meals on Wheels America
Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
Mental Health America
MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
Mercy Corps
Mercy-USA for Aid and Development
Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation
Military Order of the Purple Heart
Mission: Hope
MLD Foundation
MOVIEGUIDE®
Multiple Sclerosis Association of America
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance for Hispanic Health
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
National Association of Evangelicals
National Community Action Partnership
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Council of Nonprofits
National Eczema Association
National Environmental Health Association
National Fitness Foundation
National Health Council
National Human Services Assembly
National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Network for Youth
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Nations Kidney Foundation
Native American Rights Fund
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nonprofit Leadership Alliance
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Oxfam
Partners in Action
Peace Direct US
Penny Appeal USA
Plant With Purpose
Playworks
Prevent Blindness
ProInspire
Project HOPE
Safe States Alliance
Saint Francis Ministries
Save Our Shores
Search for Common Ground
She Is Safe
Siegel Rare Neuroimmune Association
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
Solving Kids' Cancer
Special Olympics International
SPOON
Squash and Education Alliance
St. Baldrick's Foundation
Superficial Siderosis Research Alliance (SSRA)
Susan G. Komen
Teach For America
TeamConnor Childhood Cancer Foundation
The Alliance for Middle East Peace
The Evangelical Environmental Network
The Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc.
The Hometown Foundation, Inc.
The LAM Foundation
The Myositis Association
The Sentry
The Trevor Project
TREA: The Enlisted Association
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Soccer Foundation
UNICEF USA
Union for Reform Judaism
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
United Philanthropy Forum
United Way Worldwide
VetsFirst
VisionServe Alliance
Volunteers of America
Water is Basic
Wilderness Inquiry
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
WomenHeart: The National Coalition of Women with Heart Disease
World Learning
World Relief
World Vision
Year Up
YMCA of the USA
YWCA USA