



May 5, 2020

Governor Ron DeSantis  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Florida's nonprofit sector employs over 629,000 individuals. It is a critical component of Florida's economy. As such, the sector's leadership from across the state has compiled a list of recommendations for our state's leaders to keep in mind as we re-open Florida.

Nonprofits often serve the most vulnerable—the elderly, those with underlying conditions, those in congregant facilities like homeless shelters where we can have explosive spread. Workers providing or supporting home care and human services workers from government or nonprofit providers who are delivering food, prescriptions, case management services, mental health and substance abuse therapy, or who are otherwise caring for a client.

Nonprofit recovery from COVID-19 will not be immediate once the virus is under control, and recovery will require help. As a result, our state's nonprofits recommend the following:

1. **Loosen grant and contract reporting.** Temporarily loosen grant and contract reporting, extend/delay application and renewal requirements, following the lead of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for both federally and state funded agreements.
2. **Extending small business assistance to nonprofits.** Programs like Department of Economic Opportunity's Bridge Loans should also include nonprofits. Like many small businesses, nonprofits are suffering significant financial losses as a result of the necessary public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. **Pay current invoices quickly.** Pay current invoices from nonprofits (and businesses) on an expedited basis. State agencies often hold valid invoices for weeks or months prior to payment.
4. **Include overhead costs in reimbursements.** Certain reimbursement rates have changed during this time and overhead costs have been removed. Governments at all levels – local, state, and federal – that hire nonprofits to deliver services are now required to reimburse nonprofits for reasonable indirect costs. This should apply to all grants.
5. **Assistance with procuring PPE.** Like most essential service providers, human service providers will need PPE to conduct their day to day operations as they meet with clients.
6. **Training and guidelines for providers.** Volunteerism and interaction with clients will now look differently and such requires a new set of guidelines and trainings.

7. **COVID-19 Testing:** Ensure current protocols for access to testing is working in all areas of the state. Protocols are needed to test staff/clients in facilities with residential beds, and for direct service providers and caseworkers.
8. **Flexibility with funding telehealth/telephonic services:** Extend the waiver by DCF/AHCA for telehealth and telephonic services to July 25 in an effort to continue services, especially to the rural and underserved areas. In addition, allow for more flexibility to fund prevention services with state dollars. Flexibility with the use of funds will diminish the need to ask for an increase in funds for prevention/suicide prevention programs.
9. **Child Care Services:** Ensure access to childcare so Floridians can return to work and school. Childcare providers need grants to restore capacity or reopen. Scholarships for parents who do not otherwise qualify for childcare subsidies will also help ensure more direct service providers get back to work.
10. **Extend the Governor's Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium.** Due to work closures or decreased hours of operation, many Floridians will be unable to fully pay their rent or mortgage for both residential and commercial properties. Extending the Governor's current eviction and foreclosure moratorium through July 25 to align with the CARES Act.

As you consider policy measures to best equip Florida to weather this pandemic, we urge you to keep the needs of Florida's nonprofit community in mind. Thank you for all you are doing for Floridians during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

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