



April 7, 2020

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

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Florida Nonprofit Alliance (FNA) appreciates your thoughtful and proactive response to the threat of coronavirus in Florida. In response to COVID-19, Florida's nonprofits are responding to an increased demand in services. This letter is follow-up to our March 26, 2020 letter, specifically focusing on state agency contracts with nonprofits.

Disruptions in state grants and contracts could trigger massive layoffs or even permanently shut down organizations providing health services, food assistance, emergency shelter, senior care, emergency child-care, mental health, substance use disorder treatment and other essential services in Florida.

On behalf of more than 84,000 nonprofit employers, employing more than 535,000 employees, in Florida, I would request that state agencies:

1. Maintain customary payments to nonprofits that have current grants and contracts. If a nonprofit cannot fulfill its deliverables on a state contract or grant due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, then we urge that state agencies be directed to allow billing to the contract based on customary deliverables (on the basis of average prior billings, or prior census of clients served) without penalty for inability to meet deliverables. Otherwise, forced layoffs of often hard-to-hire professional staff and agency closures will seriously impact state services in the immediate and long-term future.
2. 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.
3. Pay current invoices quickly. Pay current invoices from nonprofits (and businesses) on an expedite basis. State agencies often hold valid invoices for weeks or months prior to payment. An executive order requiring immediate and expedited payment of all current invoices will have an in immediate positive impact on nonprofit agencies' ability to make payroll, fulfill obligations, and stay in business.



Thank you for your leadership in Florida. As leaders of networks of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, we are partners committed to helping Floridians sustain health and safety in the midst of this pandemic.

I hope you will include nonprofit leaders as you seek frontline input and craft solutions. We can provide real-time information or insight to you and your staff in whatever ways are useful. You can count on the nonprofit community to be a partner in your work, and you can count on FNA to be a resource and communications conduit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabeen Perwaiz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sabeen Perwaiz,
Executive Director