COVID-19 Talking Points

Updated Friday, April 24, 2020

Nonprofit Impact

- Arizona nonprofits are facing a triple threat from the COVID-19 outbreak and its economic fallout: staggering revenue losses from event cancelations this spring, a dramatic increase in community need for their services, and shrinking workforces as volunteers stay home and paid staff work remotely.
- 85% of nonprofits surveyed by the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits reported that they had canceled fundraisers and 61% indicated a disruption of services to clients and communities.
- Nonprofits reporting budgetary impact expect more than $40 million in revenue losses and an average of 22% in increased expenses.
- As the fifth largest non-governmental employer in the state that directly contributes $10.4 billion in economic activity, Arizona’s nonprofit sector is on par with the retail and construction sectors in size and impact.

Philanthropy’s Response

- Philanthropy plays an important role in supporting and enhancing the federal and state governments’ response to the COVID-19 outbreak, especially in support of nonprofits and our most vulnerable communities.
- Arizona’s philanthropic community has made more than $33 million available to nonprofit organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic, $5 million of which has already been distributed.
- Emerging trends in grantmaking practices during this time include establishing response funds, shifting to general operating support, relaxing application and reporting requirements, offsetting financial losses from canceled events, matching employee giving, and modifying loans.
- Arizona Grantmakers meets regularly with Gov. Doug Ducey’s office to encourage and foster open communication about the state’s COVID-19 response effort and our members’ response funds.
- Arizona Grantmakers Forum is supporting and facilitating our members’ coordinated response through frequent virtual forums and communications, as well as ongoing advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring nonprofits are included in government COVID-19 relief and economic stimulus packages.
- Now more than ever, Arizonans who are struggling with this pandemic need government and the private sector to work in close partnership. Collaboration is the right thing to do for Arizona.

Relief Funds

- Several Arizona Grantmakers members have established relief funds and are soliciting donations.
- Arizona Community Foundation, the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona and Valley of the Sun United Way are working in close coordination for each of their separate funds.
- Through the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, Arizona Community Foundation is issuing rapid grants to support health care, social services and research funding needs; the foundation is administering the Small Business Relief Grant program on behalf of the Phoenix IDA and City of Phoenix.
- Arizona Community Foundation and the Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona provided initial funding to support the Arizona Commission on the Arts’ Emergency Relief Fund.
Arizona Community Foundation’s Latina Giving Circle is hosting the Arizona Undocumented Workers Relief Fund to support undocumented working families who support the state’s economy, industries and communities every day, but who are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits or most of the federal disaster relief funds.

Community Foundation for Southern Arizona is hosting two funds: The COVID-19 Nonprofit Event Relief Fund to support nonprofits that had to cancel fundraisers this spring, and the COVID-19 Community Support Fund to provide flexible resources to nonprofits in southern Arizona that are experiencing increased demand for essential community services.

Valley of the Sun United Way is supporting urgent and emerging needs of Valley families and individuals, and the nonprofits serving them, through its United for the Valley COVID-19 Fund.

United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona launched the United for Southern Arizona COVID-19 Fund to help those who need it most to survive during this crisis.

The Jewish Community Foundation of Southern Arizona and the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona created the Jewish Community Pandemic Relief Fund.

The Hopi Foundation has established its Emergency Assistance Fund to support the Hopi community’s COVID-19 pandemic response efforts.

Through Arizona Gives Day, the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits has launched the Nonprofit Emergency Relief Fund, which gives donors the option to make a donation in addition to direct donations to nonprofits of their choice. The relief fund will be distributed equally among participating nonprofits.