



Nonprofit Community Letter to Maine Congressional Delegation

May 11, 2020

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree and Representative Golden:

Like most other parts of our economy, **Maine's nonprofit sector, representing 16% of the state's workforce (about 1 in 6 jobs)**, continues to struggle in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included significant relief for charitable organizations by including them in the emergency loan programs, extending unemployment benefits to many nonprofit employees, and providing a small tax incentive for charitable giving. Nonprofits are appreciative of this relief.

A unified group of Maine organizations has put together a set of recommendations for policy solutions that will help preserve nonprofits' ability to provide vital services and nurture communities at this time of greatest need. We seek your assistance in ensuring they are included in the next COVID-19 stimulus bill that Congress passes.

Specifically, nonprofits are prioritizing the following four legislative solutions:

- 1. Expanding nonprofits' access to credit** to provide for immediate financial relief by making the following changes:
 - Improving the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by:
 - i. lifting the 500-employee cap for nonprofit organizations,
 - ii. expanding the time period during which the loan funds can be used beyond the 8 weeks after disbursement,
 - iii. extending the deadline to apply beyond June 30th,
 - iv. encouraging the SBA to provide clear guidance and flexibility in PPP forgiveness, and
 - v. repealing the "75/25" rule for PPP forgiveness.
 - Allocating more funds in the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program (EIDL), which is the only relief available to very small volunteer-led organizations, and changing the EIDL grant program to a flat amount not based on numbers of employees.
 - Advocate that the Federal Reserve include nonprofits in the Main Street Lending Program.



2. **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. **Holding harmless self-insured nonprofits by providing funding to cover 100% of the costs of these organizations' unemployment claims.** Without this change, many nonprofits that provide health care, food assistance, affordable housing, childcare, and other critical services will have to end or curtail services later this year.
4. **Increase emergency funding to state and local governments** so they may continue to fulfill contracts with nonprofit organizations, including those that provide essential services to vulnerable families and frontline responders to the COVID-19 crisis.

Thank you for your continued leadership during this crisis. The Families First and CARES Acts were important first steps in helping nonprofits recover from the COVID-19 crisis. We hope you and your colleagues in Congress will take up our recommendations to help nonprofits continue to provide essential services in our communities.

Please feel free to reach out to Sarah Skillin Woodard at Maine Association of Nonprofits (swoodard@nonprofitmaine.org) for additional information on any of these requests.

Sincerely,

7 Lakes Alliance
Abbe Museum
Alliance for Addiction + Mental
Health Services, Maine
American Cancer Society Cancer
Action Network
Apex Youth Connection
At A Bend In The Road
Belfast Soup Kitchen
Boothbay Region YMCA
Chocolate Church Arts Center

CIEE
Coastal Enterprises Inc (CEI)
Community Concepts, Inc
CORE
Denmark Arts Center
Downeast Salmon Federation
Embodied Equity Consulting
Engine
Goodwill Industries of Northern
New England
Grahamtastic Connection



GrowSmart Maine
Healthy Communities of the
Capital Area
Hewnoaks Artist Colony
Homeless Advocacy for All
Island Housing Trust
Jewish Community Alliance of
Southern Maine
Kennebec Behavioral Health
Kittery Land Trust
Konbit Sante Cap-Haitien
Health Partnership
Leadership Portland
League of Women Voters of Maine
Literacy Volunteers of Greater Sanford
Mahoosuc Land Trust
Maine Association of Nonprofits
Maine Audubon
Maine Children's Home for
Little Wanderers
Maine Community Action Partnership
Maine Jewish Film Festival
Maine Music Society
Maine Public Health Association
MaineStream Finance
Midcoast Symphony Orchestra
New Ventures Maine
Opera Maine
PAWS Animal Adoption Center
Penquis
Pine Tree Hospice
Portland Chamber Music Festival
Portland Museum of Art
Portland Ovations
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
Rett's Roost
Riding To The Top Therapeutic
Riding Center
Rippleeffect
Sanford-Springvale YMCA
Sea Change Yoga
Skidompha Public Library
Southern Maine Conservation
Collaborative
Southwest Harbor Public Library
SPCA of Hancock County
Spurwink
Sweetser
The Bicycle Coalition of Maine
The Bingham Program
The Center for Grieving Children
The Grand
Theater at Monmouth
United Veterans of Maine
United Way of Kennebec Valley
Vinalhaven Land Trust
Visit Freeport
Waldo County YMCA
Watershed Center for the Ceramic Arts
Waterville Community Dental Center
Wayfinder Schools
WERU Community Radio
Western Foothills Land Trust
Western Maine Transportation Services
WindowDressers
YMCA Alliance of Maine