



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2020

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Survey Shows Significant Impact of COVID-19 on Maine Nonprofits

Portland, ME – Maine Association of Nonprofits has conducted a flash poll of Maine’s charitable nonprofits to assess immediate and potential impacts of the pandemic on Maine’s nonprofit sector. The survey took place March 12 through 18 and received 354 responses. Nonprofits were asked to have one representative per organization complete the survey.

While the full impact from the pandemic is unknown, the findings show that nonprofits need immediate flexibility on contracts, budgets, staffing, and programming as well as timely resources from state and local governments, philanthropy, donors and colleagues in the business community to be able to address community needs.

Charitable nonprofits employ more than 98,000 people in Maine – more than the retail industry (and three times more than the construction industry). Sixty-eight percent (68%) of these employees work in health care and social services. “On the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, nonprofits face extraordinary challenges,” said Jennifer Hutchins, MANP Executive Director. “In particular, they have the unique challenge of providing essential, face-to-face care for Maine’s most vulnerable citizens while protecting their employees and volunteers.”

More than three quarters (77%) of nonprofit leaders that responded to the survey anticipate significant impact on their programs and finances. Fifty-seven percent (57%) reported they are not prepared for the potential impact of widespread outbreak. Specifically, the top three impacts nonprofits are experiencing (or expect to experience) are:

- Cancellation of programs or services (91%);
- Budget implications due to strained economy (73%); and
- Disruption of services to clients or communities (61%).

“Many nonprofits have very limited reserves and rely on public events and programs to raise the revenue needed to pay employees, contractors and other vendors,” said Hutchins. “Without immediate access to cash, they will undoubtedly face, if they haven’t already, elimination of services, employee layoffs, and possibly outright closure.”

As the situation evolves, MANP will continue to provide up-to-date resources and information on COVID-19 specific to Maine nonprofits through a dedicated webpage: www.NonprofitMaine.org/COVID-19.

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About MANP

*Since 1994, Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run. With a growing statewide membership of more than 960 nonprofit and 160 for-profit organizations, MANP is a **vocal advocate** for the work and worth of Maine nonprofits, championing their vital contribution to the economy and quality of life in our state. MANP **builds the capacity** of individual organizations through leadership and management training, online resources, and cost-saving member benefits. By **weaving connections** among new and seasoned nonprofit professionals and volunteers, MANP lifts up effective, innovative practices and fosters collaboration. MANP cultivates productive relationships across the nonprofit, business, government, and philanthropic sectors so together they can **advance solutions** to pressing issues and opportunities facing Maine.*

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