**NPW Advocacy Statement: Corona Virus**

**Nonprofits Are on the Frontlines of the Coronavirus Response in Westchester and Are in Every Community Ready to Serve**

Everywhere in Westchester, nonprofits are already in place serving vital local needs. Now, during the coronavirus pandemic, our employees are continuing to serve the most vulnerable and are being called on to feed, house, and care for people impacted directly by COVID-19. This makes nonprofit first-responders vulnerable to potentially harmful conditions.

Nonprofits are our economy’s shock absorber when crisis hits, and the services and stability provided benefit all residents, regardless of age, race, religion and income level. Our innovation and expertise is needed now more than ever as we remain responsive to every-changing conditions.

When crisis strikes, demand and need for nonprofit services increase, yet funding often decreases.

**Advocacy Position**

1. Enact a targeted, temporary tax/giving incentive that enables all residents, regardless of whether they claim itemize deductions, to receive a tax incentive for giving to the work of charitable nonprofits responding to, or suffering from, the coronavirus.
2. Provide needed funds to pay for the increased costs and demand for services arising because our economy and safety net was not built for a pandemic of this degree.
3. Allow temporary changes to government funding and contractual protocols, including providing **unrestricted funding and removing restrictions, suspending reporting requirements and maintaining funding levels, and** advanced payments to address cash flow issues,nonprofit agencies can effectively deliver vital services during this crisis and in the future.
4. Expand paid leave to 14 days for all nonprofit workers, including hourly workers, to ensure their health and safety, and so they can to care for their families.
5. Provide further guidance and information on testing for COVID-19 and offer free testing for all Westchester residents who feel they have been exposed to the virus.

**Nonprofits Are Significant Employers and Small Businesses**

Nonprofit employers pay salaries, benefits and payroll taxes.This core economic fact has to be recognized. Many nonprofits are relatively small, are community based and serving local needs.

**Advocacy Position**

1. Expressly apply any employment-focused relief or stimulus legislation  [to employment at tax-exempt organizations](https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/sites/default/files/documents/network-letter-disaster-relief-and-recovery-tax-package-nonprofit-recommendations.pdf) by making tax credits and deductions applicable not just to income taxes, but to the taxes nonprofit pay, such as unrelated business income taxes and payroll taxes.
2. Expressly include nonprofits in tax and other relief targeted to small businesses.

**Nonprofits Are Experiencing Declining Economic Activities**

The community engagement and related services of many nonprofits that promote and serve a vibrant economy and jobs are declining. We are experiencing cancelled arts, after school and educational programming, cancelled and postponed fundraising events where many nonprofits earn significant mission dollars through attendance and sponsorships, and diminished attendance at cultural, religious, and community events. All of these activities are essential to a healthy economy and deserving of stimulus.

**Advocacy Position**

1. Recognize the nonprofit sector in any economic stimulus proposals aimed at helping adversely affected industries and geographic areas.

*NPW used this article as a resource:* [*https://nonprofitquarterly.org/an-appeal-to-congress-to-include-nonprofits-in-packages-for-relief-and-stimulus*](https://nonprofitquarterly.org/an-appeal-to-congress-to-include-nonprofits-in-packages-for-relief-and-stimulus/)