

PRESS RELEASE

March 24, 2020

NEARLY 1,000 NONPROFITS ASK CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR, STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FOR COVID-19 RELIEF

THIS week, the California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits) sent an urgent message to California lawmakers signed by leaders of 955 community-based organizations from 46 counties requesting lawmakers include nonprofits in emergency measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The letter was sent to Governor Gavin Newsom; California Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins; California Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon; Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair of the Senate Budget Committee; and Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee.

Jan Masaoka, CEO of CalNonprofits, explained: "We know that California's leaders recognize and appreciate the importance of nonprofit work and are committed to making sure that nonprofits get the resources we need. This letter demonstrates to the state government that nonprofits across every sector and across the entire state are clear and specific about what we need to do the work our communities are counting on during this critical time."

The letter, organized by CalNonprofits as the state's leading nonprofit policy alliance, calls for:

- All California government agencies to continue to pay on contracts and grants with nonprofits if they are underperforming due to temporary closures and suspension or reduction of services associated with COVID-19.
- Expedited or automatic approval processes for budget modifications that must be implemented to allow nonprofits to move budget-line items associated with existing contracts to new COVID-19 related priorities, such as the cost of disinfecting facilities.
- New and immediate emergency funds to be made available to address increased COVID-19 related costs to nonprofits to support the uninterrupted delivery of essential services that affect public health, and to ensure that nonprofits can continue to serve their communities.
- Programs aimed at assisting employers and employees, tenants and mortgagees, and utility ratepayers through the COVID-19 crisis to be made equally available and at least as beneficial to nonprofit as to for-profit entities.

- State agencies waiving certain certification procedures, as appropriate, to let nonprofits provide COVID-19 related emergency and essential services.

“Nonprofits have stepped up without hesitation with emergency responses of all kinds to the COVID-19 crisis,” continued Masaoka. “Government relies heavily on nonprofits in ‘normal’ times, and it is abundantly clear now that nonprofits are crucial to provide services and to help end the pandemic.”

The final version of the letter with all signatories listed is available [here](#).

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For more information contact Christina Dragonetti, Outreach and Communications Director for CalNonprofits, at 415-926-0668 or christinad@calnonprofits.org.

California Association of Nonprofits (CalNonprofits), a statewide policy alliance of more than 10,000 organizations, is the voice for California’s nonprofit community. Through our advocacy work, we protect and enhance the ability of California’s nonprofits to serve our state, the nation, and the world.