



March 17, 2020

Governor James Justice  
WV State Capitol  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice,

During the midst of any challenge or crisis for West Virginia, one of the first sectors to step up and do more is our state's nonprofits of all sizes from all communities.

From the 2016 floods to this COVID-19 pandemic, numerous nonprofit organizations from statewide organizations to local food pantries, homeless centers/services, social service agencies, community foundations, United Ways, and senior services are on the front lines to respond to ever changing needs, ensure the public's safety, and lead recovery and restoration efforts.

While these organizations always step up and give their all during these public, health and economic crises, they are the first to suffer tremendous economic hardships, lose volunteer labor, lay off staff, or even end up closing their doors due to the loss of revenue during chaotic times.

West Virginia's nonprofits employ one out of every nine people in West Virginia's workforce and provide critical services and economic benefit to all fifty-five counties. The loss or financial hardships experienced by these organizations have as great of an impact on our state's workforce and economy as any business would have. As a state, nonprofits matter and need our support during challenging times.

As steps are taken by your administration, the legislature, and any part of state government, our three associations representing over 400 nonprofits in our state ask for you to include nonprofit organizations (501c3 tax-exempt) of all sizes in any and all economic and financial hardship relief and support funds providing grants from West Virginia State government.

West Virginia's nonprofits always go beyond the call of duty when our citizens and communities need them. We as a state need to ensure we step up to include them in any economic relief, recovery, and support funds in the coming days, weeks, and months ahead. This should include funding that supports their general operations, any loss revenue due to economic downturn, and specific programs/services offered to respond to the pandemic.

Our collective organizations welcome you and your staff to contact us to discuss this request and provide insights to strategy and policy development. Your leadership to ensure their inclusion will truly represent that West Virginia is Almost Heaven to our citizens, nonprofits, businesses, and communities.

Respectfully requested,

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