



April 4, 2022

Chair Mohamud Noor  
397 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Noor and House Workforce and Business Development Committee members,

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is the largest statewide association of nonprofits in the country, representing over 2,300 member organizations across the state. Through MCN, nonprofits join together across interest areas to work on issues of common interest to all. MCN works to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

Today your committee is walking through the Workforce and Business Development omnibus bill which we are disappointed to see does not include a proposed **Nonprofit Relief Fund**. This legislation would provide vital support for the nonprofit sector following two years of a pandemic with unpredictable funding streams and increased demand in services.

**Below our signatures, please find a statement of support for a Nonprofit Relief Fund, signed by nearly 150 Minnesota organizations.**

A Nonprofit Relief Fund would provide one-time grants to eligible nonprofits that have suffered financial distress as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is modeled on the Small Business Relief Grant program through the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Nonprofits are eligible recipients of federal ARPA dollars, and so a Nonprofit Relief Fund could be funded through the state's general fund or remaining ARPA federal funds.

The MN nonprofit sector employs 14% of the state's workforce and our sector has been significantly impacted by the pandemic. As of December 2021, 44% of nonprofits are still seeing an increase in demand for services yet only 47% can operate for 12 months or less before they exhibit financial distress.

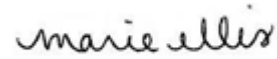
Nonprofits have largely been left out of state and federal relief funds throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Nonprofits have stepped up to fill in the gaps in communities across the state of Minnesota by providing needed services such as: rent support, nutrition, transportation, workforce training, mental health services, and more. A Nonprofit Relief Fund would support nonprofits' financial stability so they can continue to provide essential services to residents across Minnesota.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Ellis, public policy director, at the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits at 651-757-3060 or [mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org](mailto:mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org). Thank you for your continuing partnership as we work together to serve the communities of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Nonoko Sato  
Executive Director



Marie Ellis  
Public Policy Director

**Statement of Support for Nonprofit Relief Fund:**

We support the creation of a nonprofit relief fund, providing general operating grants to targeted nonprofits in Minnesota. An increased demand in services, loss of revenue, increased costs for new technology and health safety measures, uncertainty about future funding, a diminished volunteer force, and a shrinking workforce are straining our organizations to their limits. The nonprofit sector has played a critical role in supporting Minnesota's communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and we request financial relief to continue that support as our communities experience, recover, and rebuild from COVID-19.

1 Day At A Time	Ely Folk School
1st Step Housing Consultant	Emma Norton Services
A Chance To Grow. Inc.	Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt Inc.
Academy of Whole Learning	Family Service Rochester
AMAZE	FMW Nonprofit Solutions
AMWAG	Foci MCGA
Animal Allies Humane Society, Inc.	Frank Theatre
Appetite For Change	Gifts for Seniors
Ascension Place, Inc., dba Haven Housing	Green T Productions
Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities	Grove City Area Care Living at Home Program
Blue Water Theatre Company	HandsOn Twin Cities
Bluebirds & Blooms	Haven Housing
Brothers EMpowered	Headway Emotional Health Services
CAAM Chinese Dance Theater	Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County
Camp Fire Minnesota	INspiring SIGHT
CAPIUSA	Interact Center
Caponi Art Park	Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts
Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization	Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
Cerenity Senior Care-Humboldt	Keystone Community Services
Channel One Regional Food Bank	Kids In Need Foundation
Children's Law Center of Minnesota	Legacy Family Center
Chinese Social Service Center	LegalCORPS
Cultural Diversity Resources	Living at Home Network
Duluth Makerspace	Loaves & Fishes
East Side Neighborhood Services	Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Elpis Enterprises	

Marshall Food4Kids  
Memorialize the Movement  
Metropolitan Alliance of Connected Communities  
Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc. d/b/a/ Trellis  
Minnesota Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs  
Minnesota Center for Book Arts  
Minnesota Center for Employee Ownership  
Minnesota Community Health Workers Alliance  
Minnesota Council on Foundations  
Minnesota Fringe Festival  
Minnesota Lakes and Rivers  
Minority Business Growth Alliance  
Missions Inc. Programs  
MORE  
Morrison County United Way  
Mount Olivet Rolling Acres, Inc.  
Music Saint Croix  
Nate's Community Garage  
North Shore Area Partners  
Northeast Contemporary Services, Inc.  
Northwest Minnesota Foundation  
Partners for Affordable Housing  
Partners for Housing  
Partnership Resources Inc  
Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADs)  
Pearl Crisis Center  
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center  
PRISM  
Propel Nonprofits  
Reach for Resources, Inc.  
RECLAIM  
Reviving Sisterhood  
Rice County Area United Way  
River Valley Health Services  
Safe Families for Children - Greater Twin Cities  
Safe Families For Children -West Central  
Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center  
Sahan Journal  
SAVEC (St Anthony Villagers for Equity and Community)  
Semilla Center for Healing and the Arts  
SEWA-AIFW  
Sheridan Nghbd Org  
Skewed Visions  
Social Venture Partners MN  
Southeast Seniors  
STRIPES University  
Teamsters Service Bureau | Minnesota Job Partners  
Telling Queer History  
Textile Center of Minnesota  
The Arc Minnesota  
The Bridge for Youth  
The Family Partnership  
The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul  
The Phoenix Residence Inc.  
The sheltering Arms Foundation  
Thrive Family Recovery Resources  
Trust Incorporated  
Tubman  
Unite Cloud  
United Way of Becker County  
United Way of Carlton County  
United Way of Northeastern Minnesota  
United Ways of Minnesota  
Urban Solutions  
VINE Faith in Action  
Violence Intervention Project  
Washburn Center for Children  
White Bear Center for the Arts  
Will Work for Recovery  
WoMN ACT  
Wright County Community Action Inc.  
Youth Farm  
YWCA Mankato  
YWCA Minneapolis