



March 30, 2022

Chair Eric Pratt
95 University Ave W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3219
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pratt and Senate Jobs and Economic Growth 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 hearing the Governor's budget proposal, which includes a \$50 million nonprofit relief fund. We ask that you go beyond that recommendation and instead support **Senator Nelson's bill for a \$200 million Nonprofit Relief Fund (SF3593)**. 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 over 130 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 workforce and the 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 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.

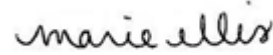
MCN believes that the resources available in this legislative session should be used to respond to the ongoing health and economic impacts of the pandemic, address long-standing disparities and areas of disinvestment, and build a stronger, more equitable recovery. In particular, we support policies that work toward supporting and rebuilding a thriving and more equitable nonprofit sector.

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. 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

1 Day At A Time	Family Service Rochester
1st Step Housing Consultant	FMW Nonprofit Solutions
A Chance To Grow. Inc.	Foci MCGA
Academy of Whole Learning	Frank Theatre
AMAZE	Gifts for Seniors
AMWAG	Green T Productions
Animal Allies Humane Society, Inc.	Grove City Area Care Living at Home Program
Appetite For Change	HandsOn Twin Cities
Ascension Place, Inc., dba Haven Housing	Haven Housing
Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities	Headway Emotional Health Services
Blue Water Theatre Company	Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County
Bluebirds & Blooms	INspiring SIGHT
Brothers EMpowered	Interact Center
CAAM Chinese Dance Theater	Interact Center for the Visual & Performing Arts
Camp Fire Minnesota	Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota and the Dakotas
CAPIUSA	Keystone Community Services
Caponi Art Park	Kids In Need Foundation
Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization	Legacy Family Center
Cerenity Senior Care-Humboldt	LegalCORPS
Channel One Regional Food Bank	Living at Home Network
Children's Law Center of Minnesota	Loaves & Fishes
Chinese Social Service Center	Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Cultural Diversity Resources	Marshall Food4Kids
Duluth Makerspace	Memorialize the Movement
East Side Neighborhood Services	Metropolitan Alliance of Connected Communities
Elpis Enterprises	Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging, Inc. d/b/a/ Trellis
Ely Folk School	
Emma Norton Services	
Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt Inc.	

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