



Nate's Community Garage

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

3/30/2022

Dear Chair Eric Pratt,

Nate's Community Garage developed in 2020 as a 501c3 out of Nate's Garage in Cannon Falls, MN. Nate's Community Garage is only the second program of its kind in Minnesota.

Nate's Community Garage is bridging the financial gap for Veterans and people with fixed incomes to afford unexpected costly automotive repair. By providing a financial bridge to assist participants in maintaining independence with mobility; to access required medical care, obtain/maintaining employment and or access to education.

During the pandemic, most people that were not essential workers, only drove a few miles a week to pick up essentials at the local store. All aspects of the automotive industry felt the impact. We found that 70% of our applicants in 2020-2021 would rather repair their existing car, instead of replacing it. Customers on fixed incomes struggled to find funds for costly repairs.

This impacted our program by overwhelming the need for assistance. As a small program just starting out, we struggled to raise the funds fast enough, and when applying for grants we were competing with larger more established agencies with additional increased demand. Nonprofits have been left out of state and federal relief funds throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Nonprofit Relief Grant would support our nonprofits' ability to assist people transitioning back into school and work, which will decrease for those needing public assistance and unemployment. A one-time grant from DEED towards essential services can accelerate a more equitable economic recovery in Minnesota.

Will you join us in supporting Senator Nelson's \$200 million Nonprofit relief Fund?

Sincerely,

Alissa Elles | Nate's Community Garage