

**Action Alert for Signatory Organizations to Share: (Use this email to share with staff, board, and partners)**

Subject: We have a short window left to act

Body:

Dear [name]

With little time left in Minnesota's legislative session - we have a narrow window left to partner with our state leaders.

We are grateful for all the work our legislative leaders have done on behalf of Minnesota communities, but critical gaps remain *such as unemployment costs for self-insuring nonprofits and especially in light of the* [*DOL's recent guidance regarding unemployment costs for tax-exempt employers*](https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/article/dol-issues-breathtakingly-cruel-guidance-inflicting-billions-immediate-costs-charitable)*.*

[Our organization], through our partnership with the MACC network, recently helped craft [a direct and urgent appeal](https://www.gtcuw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Letter-from-MN-Nonprofit-Orgs-to-State-Leadership-April-14-2020.pdf) to our Governor and state leaders. We also provided key input to [a previous letter in March](https://www.gtcuw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020_March_19_COVID19_Legislative_Leadership_Final.pdf).

**What we need you to do:** [Use this template](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qFywp-L-0E3KZdBF5V6f07mIpC7MAaig/view?usp=sharing) toshare both letters with state leaders

Minnesota families know that in the toughest times they can rely on nonprofits, like [our organization], to connect them to the critical services they need. With the right resources we can work together our government partners to provide a buffer against the worst of this outbreak and equip our communities to restore, repair, and rebuild their health and wellbeing.

But many nonprofits are already vulnerable: 72% of Minnesota nonprofits are operating with less than 6 months of cash on hand[[1]](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CTrishaReinwald%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CWZ7CGY4P%5C2020_March_19_COVID19_Legislative_Leadership_Final.docx#_ftn1) and 40% are operating with no reserves[[2]](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CTrishaReinwald%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CWZ7CGY4P%5C2020_March_19_COVID19_Legislative_Leadership_Final.docx#_ftn2). The new unemployment guidance from DOL for example will take resources from our communities, threaten our ability to do the vital work our communities need - and put even more jobs at risk.

With time tight and attention short, we need to speak with a unified voice and ask for the practical support that will ensure we can continue meeting the critical needs of our communities. Act now!

If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly or the advocacy team at United Way at advocacy@gtcuw.org.

Thank you for taking action to support [our organization]!

[Your sign off]



**How to use these templates:**

1. Use this link to find your legislative leaders and their contact information: <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/> (additional contact info below)
2. Customize the template below
	1. Add your leader and your personal info
	2. Feel free to add additional details about how your organization has been impacted
3. Copy, paste into an email, and send!
4. *Bonus: use the social templates below to reach out via social media!*

**Reach your Leader Email Template:**

[MN Leader last name W/Title (example: Senator Smith, Congresswoman Omar)]

I [work for/am a board member/am a community partner] for [organization], a human services nonprofit in your community.

I want to thank you for your leadership and support of Minnesota’s most vulnerable residents during this crisis. There is still time for further, critically needed action.

[Organization], through our partnership with the MACC network, recently helped craft [a direct and urgent appeal](https://www.gtcuw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Letter-from-MN-Nonprofit-Orgs-to-State-Leadership-April-14-2020.pdf) with a set of unified recommendations to our Governor and state leaders. We also provided key input to [a previous letter in March](https://www.gtcuw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2020_March_19_COVID19_Legislative_Leadership_Final.pdf).

These recommendations include:

1. Support flexibility in grant/contract deliverables and continued payment across *ALL* state agencies
2. Establish a nonprofit recovery fund so our communities can look toward longer term, future needs
3. Provide 100% relief from COVID-19 unemployment claims for self-insured nonprofits
4. Support additional Funds for FHPAP so that more families can keep their homes

Minnesota families know that in the toughest times they can rely on nonprofits to connect them to the critical services they need. Our deep understanding of community assets and needs means we have the ability to be nimble and creative to achieve community goals. With the right resources we can work together our government partners to be a buffer against the worst of this outbreak and equip our communities to restore, repair, and rebuild their health and wellbeing.

Many already vulnerable nonprofits (*72% of Minnesota nonprofits are operating with less than 6 months of cash on hand*[*[1]*](https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/docs/default-source/publications/2018-cfo-survey.pdf) *and 40% are operating with no reserves*[*[2]*](https://www.minnesotanonprofits.org/docs/default-source/publications/2018-cfo-survey.pdf)) have been hit hard by this crisis while simultaneously being left out of relief designed to help for-profit businesses. [The new unemployment guidance from DOL](https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/article/dol-issues-breathtakingly-cruel-guidance-inflicting-billions-immediate-costs-charitable) for example will take resources from our communities, threaten our ability to do the vital work our communities need - and put even more jobs at risk.

I urge you to review the recommendations and incorporate these ideas into legislation supporting Minnesotans in this difficult time.



**State Leadership Contact Info:**

[Look up who represents your nonprofit if you are not sure](https://minnesotanonprofits.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=c7edeeaf000d49b689fe3b0f5&id=5c8198bfac&e=ecd8b886a3).

**House of Representatives:**

District 1 – [Rep. Hagedorn](https://hagedorn.house.gov/contact)

District 2 – [Rep. Craig](https://craig.house.gov/contact)

District 3 – [Rep. Phillips](https://phillips.house.gov/contact)

District 4 – [Rep. McCollum](https://mccollum.house.gov/contact)

District 5 – [Rep. Omar](https://omar.house.gov/contact)

District 6 – [Rep. Emmer](https://emmer.house.gov/contact)

District 7 – [Rep. Peterson](https://collinpeterson.house.gov/contact)

District 8 – [Rep. Stauber](https://stauber.house.gov/contact)

**Senators:**

[Senator Klobuchar](https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-amy)

[Senator Smith](https://www.smith.senate.gov/)

**Action alert social media posts:**

#1

ACTION ALERT: In this time of need, please join MN's nonprofit community to thank elected officials for their leadership & ask them to support recommendations to help organizations on the front line of community service. Please click & join our efforts https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV

#2

MN's nonprofits deliver critical services for people across our state and need support right now to meet the growing needs wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic. Join us in letting elected officials know how we can come together. Sign our Action Alert here  [https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV](https://bit.ly/2JgF2tC)

 #3

We’re asking partners & friends around MN to contact @GovTimWalz and #mnleg legislators about the importance of supporting nonprofits & the people we serve during this time of unprecedented need. Please click to send a message of support:  [https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV](https://bit.ly/2JgF2tC)

 #4

MN nonprofits supply food assistance, domestic violence crisis response, childcare, mental health services & more. We must be able to meet rapidly changing needs in this crisis. Please join us in supporting ideas to bolster the work of MN's nonprofits  [https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV](https://bit.ly/2JgF2tC)



**Direct social media appeals to state leadership:**

 #1

[insert leader social media] MN nonprofits are united in asking for action to help avoid further disruption of services during #covd19 crisis https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV

 #2

[insert leader social media] MN's nonprofits deliver critical services for people across our state and need support right now to meet the growing needs wrought by the #Covid-19 pandemic https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV

 #3

[insert leader social media] We need your action! MN nonprofits supply food assistance, domestic violence crisis response, childcare, mental health services & more. We must be able to meet rapidly changing needs in this crisis. https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV

 #4

[insert leader social media] Critical services to our most vulnerable community members are at risk - please continue to address the needs of MN nonprofit community service providers during #Covid-19 https://bit.ly/2VpN2PV

**State Leadership social media handles:**

Governor Tim Walz @GovTimWalz

Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan [@LtGovFlanagan](https://twitter.com/LtGovFlanagan)

Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman @melissahortman

House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler - @\_RyanWinkler

House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt @kdaudt

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka @paulgazelka

Senate Minority Leader Susan Kent @SusanKentMN

Management and Budget Commissioner Myron Frans @myronfrans

Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steven Grove @grove

Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington no personal twitter - @MnDPS\_DPS

Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead no personal twitter - [@MinnesotaDHS](https://twitter.com/MinnesotaDHS)

Housing Commissioner Jennifer Ho- no personal twitter- @mnhousing

Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm- [@MDHCommMalcolm](https://twitter.com/MDHCommMalcolm)

Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell no personal- @MinnCorrections