



Discussion on Funder Collaboration for COVID-19

April 13, 2020 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Meeting Notes

Resources

Speaker Contact

- Seyron Foo, seyron@socalgrantmakers.org, 213-680-8866 ext. 221
- Saul Ettlin, settlin@communityvisionca.org
- Amy Freeman, afreeman@smithct.org

Speaker Resources

- [Community Vision Rapid Response Resources](#)
- [Independent Sector CARES Act Resource Page](#)

Upcoming Webinars

- April 20th | [2020 Philanthropy California Virtual Policy Summit](#)
- April 27th | [Discussion on Funder Collaboration for COVID-19](#)

Introduction & Framing

This meeting focused on short and long term resources for building non-profit resilience in the Bay Area. It started off with an overview of the CARES Act and how the legislation will aid the nonprofit sector. Community Vision shared about the needs they are seeing on the ground and how financial planning, technical assistance, and capacity are needed more than ever for the nonprofit sector. We also heard from a local funder on how they are making investments in both short and long term aid.

Seyron Foo, Vice President, Public Policy and Government Relations, Southern California Grantmakers

- Shared highlights on how the CARES ACT will support nonprofits
 - Direct Support for nonprofits
 - Paycheck Protection Programs (\$349 billion dollar fund)
 - Emergency Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)
 - Shortcomings:
 - Excludes non-tax filers and undocumented immigrants.
 - Additional Support
 - HR. 6408 Save Organizations that Serve (SOS) America Act.



- Congress is likely to increase funds to PPP, but it's unclear if there will be a set aside for nonprofits.
- Speak to your nonprofit partners to see what their needs are. Find out if your organization has any relationships with SBA lenders and how you might be able to leverage it for nonprofit partners who don't currently have one.
- Think about key partnerships that can be leveraged to have a big impact and that will increase access to these federal funds. i.e. New York Finance Fund and New York Community Trust.
- Both sides of the aisle agree that more money needs to go into PPP, but they are trying to identify the conditions for rolling it out.

Saul Ettlin, Nonprofit Real Estate Consultant, Community Vision

- Community Vision promotes economic justice and alleviate poverty by increasing the financial resilience and sustainability of community-based nonprofits and enterprises.
- Immediate/ rapid response has included
 - Setting up a portal where organizations can book an hour of free consultation with one of Community Vision's real estate consultants.
 - Often organizations that are led by POC are under resourced. Providing consultation has provided space for organizational leaders to share their concerns and provide guidance on responding to rapid response funds.
 - Also answering a lot of questions regarding PPP and how to navigate conversation with landlords about space.
 - Invite participants on the call to send grantees to Community Vision's website as a resource.
 - Mid-term/Resilience Response
 - Provide access to bridge loans while nonprofits are waiting on grants and/or government funding.
 - Thinking about what technical assistance will be needed after these rapid response funds are no longer available. Critical to advocate for resources for these nonprofits to sustain and thrive after the pandemic passes.
 - Aiding organizations think about how they make decisions around their financial management and how to look at making deeper partnerships.
 - Recovery Phase
 - After the 2000 dot.com bust and the 2008 economic downturn, the sector regretted not taking advantage of purchasing space. Need to think about how we are investing in innovation and risk capital so that organizations can shift their business models to meet new needs in the community.
 - Funders should be thinking about what technical assistance support organizations that are led and serve POC, to aid them with financial management and taking strategic steps in serving their communities.



- Community Vision is implementing a long term place base strategy, supporting local organizations by providing technical expertise and building up their capacity to buy-up small parcels in the community.

Amy Freeman, Director of Programs, May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust

- Trust funds Adults & Transitioning Youth with Disabilities, Elders, Foster Youth, and Veterans, currently has 240 grantees.
- Each grantee has been impacted by the pandemic differently and have different needs, but some common issues include:
 - Nonprofits have had to shift the way they provide services, requiring new equipment, new training, and reconfiguring staff.
 - Learning how to access government stimulus funds and being aware of any consequences of limiting their access to other funds.
 - Loss of revenue from fundraisers, and other events/activities
 - Not being able to use volunteers.
 - Being able to provide services safely for the most vulnerable.
 - Mental health for those on the frontlines.
- The first response of the Trust was to email all current grantees to let them know that the Trust was there for them and that there will be no change in their grantmaking. Also asked grantees to share what they needed, including where they may need flexibility, i.e. proposal deadlines, changing projects grants to general operating support, etc.
- Next, the trust increased their budget by 20%, creating a rapid response fund, in which each program area got an additional \$500,000. No application was needed to access these funds.
- The Trust will also disperse \$250K in emergency grants in the next two months for specific needs, which will be allocated as general operating support.
- In the medium term, the trust will provide supplemental grants for another \$250K per program area.
- The Trust also provides multi-year grants, in which each program officer can choose five organizations to add an additional year of support to a current two year grant.
- If your trustees are worried about the endowment, assure them that it will bounce back, but it's important that we are investing in these community organizations so that they are still here after the pandemic.
- Important to be transparent and communicate frequently with nonprofit partners.

Closing

- NCG will follow-up with individuals from the call who are interested in having a smaller conversation around nonprofit resilience.



- There will not be a funder call next Monday, as Philanthropy California is hosting 2020 Philanthropy California Virtual Policy Summit.
- Discussion on Funder Collaboration calls will resume on 4/27.
- Thank you for those who have completed the NCG's Philanthropic Response Survey, we will be sharing results on our website soon, stay tuned!