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The CEO Exchange is a collaboration of Southern Nevada's nonprofit presidents and CEOs who work together to make a collective difference in the social safety net for the most vulnerable in our community. In this spirit, Nevada must find ways to meet immediate needs but also plan for the future – what we want to see in our recovery and beyond.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides emergency federal resources for the country to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act will help state and local governments as they address pressing needs for citizens and communities.

There is no question that public agencies will face an immense challenge in the coming months and beyond. There are urgent public health needs to address immediately and now a requirement to distribute CARES Act resources to help continue to meet other pressing community needs. It is already clear that most public agencies will face drastically reduced budgets in 2020 and potentially in the following years, further straining recovery efforts.

Nonprofit organizations are essential and will play a key role in Nevada's pandemic response and recovery. In 2019, the CEO Exchange organizations combined economic impact in Southern Nevada totaled \$263 million dollars. Exchange organizations employ more than 6,300 workers and rely on 50,000 volunteers to deliver much-needed services.

Nonprofits have already developed plans to meet ongoing service needs associated with responding to the pandemic through the end of the 2020 calendar year and beyond. CARES Act funds are a critical part of those plans. It's essential that state and local governments use CARES Act funds to assist and partner with nonprofit organizations to meet the needs of Nevadans for the foreseeable future.

In Nevada, as in many other parts of the country, the demand for safety net services such as housing support, legal consultations on evictions collections, emergency food assistance and much more has surged. Unfortunately, most organizations forecast demand for these critical services to remain at historic levels. In order to serve Southern Nevadans, nonprofits will need an infusion of additional resources.

It's essential that CARES Act funding be swiftly distributed from state and local government agencies to nonprofit partners. The CEO Exchange recommendations for CARES Act collaboration between public agencies and the nonprofit community are focused on three key areas, outlined below.

1. Nonprofit role in response and relief planning

Nonprofit organizations must be integrated into Nevada's COVID-19 response and relief planning. Most leaders are well-aware of the short-term needs in our communities. Many people have lost employment, at least temporarily. Our social safety net organizations are stepping up to meet the rapidly emerging immediate needs. Economic, social and emotional stresses are contributing to a spike in demand for services.

- Legal Aid of Southern Nevada has answered more than 10,000 legal assistance calls in just one week.
- The waiting list for Meals on Wheels has grown to more than 3,000 seniors in need of food assistance.
- Most shelter programs, including domestic violence shelters for those in immediate danger, are operating at capacity with a waiting list for space.
- The no-cost, daily community meal at Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada has served up to 1,000 lunches in a single day.
- SafeNest has seen a dramatic increase in demand for domestic violence related services including a 76% increase in hotline call volume, 75% increase in requests for shelter and a 13% increase in counseling services. Notably, the lethality scores for clients, which indicate the likelihood of an escalation to homicide, have increased dramatically.
- Goodwill of Southern Nevada has increased one-on-one career coaching, providing 1,618 remote coaching sessions and 10 virtual, work-ready workshops through YouTube and Facebook Live chats, accessed by 3,067 people.
- During the school shutdown, Vegas PBS experienced 17 million views/streams of instructional media downloads for At Home Learning and provided more than 350 hours per week of instructional programs for At-Home Learning.
- More than 4,000 adult learners enrolled in Vegas PBS online career re-training and certification courses, while over 600 tests for job qualifications for police and school employers were completed.
- Vegas PBS website visits increased from 2.2 million a month to 3.1 million a month, with popular resources including COVID-19 information and self-help resources to assist with legal, food, financial and health questions and concerns.
- United Way of Southern Nevada (UWSN) established the Emergency Assistance and Community Needs fund to provide resources to the community including food, shelter and utility assistance. UWSN has received requests from nonprofit partners totaling over \$5 million, with new requests weekly, and has distributed over \$2.1 million. Many nonprofits exhausted all funds within the first month.

Unfortunately, there will be numerous long-term safety net needs as well. Many major employers in Southern Nevada will bring workers back in phases, meaning that unemployment will remain high for months, if not years. Travel and tourism projections indicate that Nevada's economy may not fully recover until 2023. We know that means that there will be significant community needs for the foreseeable future. Nonprofit organizations will need immediate funding, longer term funding and flexibility to meet the needs of our community. It's critical that nonprofits have a "seat at the table" for response and recovery planning efforts.

2. Priority Funding Areas

Statewide, Nevada must identify and publicly communicate priority funding areas. The financial needs in our nonprofit organizations are substantial. More than \$1.2 billion in CARES Act funding has already been distributed to the state of Nevada, Clark County and the City of Las Vegas. While public agencies need a portion of those funds to administer important programs, there are numerous safety net nonprofit organizations that require funding to help meet community needs. In 2019, approximately \$48.7 million in government grant funds helped CEO Exchange members deliver critical programs such as:

- Meals on Wheels, serving more than 764,000 vulnerable seniors with home-delivered meals and weekly wellness checks.
- Migration and Refugee services, resettling 800 seeking refuge from persecution.
- Women, Infants, and Children, providing 62,000 low-income families with supplemental food and nutritional education.
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program which provides food, shelter and utility assistance to nearly 100,000 low-income individuals and families.
- Goodwill of Southern Nevada reaches hundreds of transitioning military, veterans and military spouses with workforce training including on-the-job training, occupational skills and other supportive services.
- SafeNest serves more than 20,000 individual clients each year, providing more than \$100,000 in hotline services, shelter, court advocacy, community advocacy, and counseling.

For CARES Act funding, priority areas must include:

- **Food banks and food-assistance nonprofits:** Ensure funding allocations for emergency food assistance through community partners, including food banks.
- **Housing assistance:** Provide emergency housing assistance, including resources for the elderly, persons with disabilities, homeless assistance grants, the increased number of people now at risk of homelessness, and infectious disease prevention and mitigation.
- **Legal aid:** There are greatly increased needs for legal services, particularly around evictions, as well as personal and workforce safety.
- **Workforce development:** Especially in the long term, it's essential that resources be dedicated to employment and training services for tens of thousands of dislocated workers.
- **Children and families.** As family incomes have plummeted, there are widespread needs to provide more affordable childcare options and assistance, as well as increased needs for family violence shelters, and services and housing for homeless youth.
- **Domestic violence:** The pandemic has resulted in a spike in need for hotline services, as well as temporary housing and assistance to victims of family, domestic, and dating violence.
- **Aging and disability services programs:** Consider how to fund critical services for older Americans including nutrition, caregiver support, aging and disability resource centers rental assistance. Especially given that seniors are uniquely threatened by COVID-19, programs that serve homebound older Americans are critical at this time.
- **Substance abuse and mental health:** Funding to address mental health and substance use disorders are especially critical during an economic downturn, as addiction issues tend to increase substantially during these times.

3. State leadership and coordination

State and local governments should move swiftly to distribute CARES Act funds. Coordinating across multiple agencies and between multiple units of government is challenging. One recommended step is for state leadership to designate a State of Nevada coordinator who can work across state agencies and

act as a liaison to nonprofit organizations. A state-level coordinator would help ensure funding priorities are identified and acted upon, as well as implement methods to communicate important updates to stakeholders.

Conclusion

Nonprofits are essential to Nevada's COVID-19 response and recovery and they should be included at every level of planning. Public agencies and nonprofits alike face challenges in the midst of this public health crisis and the economic distress it has caused. While these challenges will continue, the CARES Act creates avenues for immediate relief and long-term response.