



To: Mayor Adler and City Council Members

May 5, 2020

Dear Mayor and Members of City Council,

Please accept this multi organization letter of support for the May 7, 2020 City Council meeting agenda item 23 that would direct the City Manager to develop a rapid funds program for distribution of CARES funding to nonprofit organizations in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The organizations co-signing on this letter support the \$6.0 million Austin Nonprofit & Civic Health Organization Relief Fund (ANCHOR) to support nonprofits working in the areas of health and human services, childcare, education, workforce development, arts and culture, environment, and animals.

Nonprofit organizations are playing a uniquely crucial role as part of the nation's response to COVID-19, delivering essential services during a constantly evolving public health crisis while planning for the long-term needs that communities will face in the recovery phase. Our nonprofits form a critical social safety net in our community. They work every day with individuals and families to access healthcare, secure stable housing, meet basic needs, along with creating a sense of community and connectedness. Our nonprofit sector provides services efficiently and leverages dollars received better than any other sector.

With the COVID-19 crisis, our nonprofits have lost significant funding due to the loss of fundraising events, a drop in individual donations, and a drop in corporate donations. While our local nonprofits are doing everything possible to stay afloat including applying for federal loans and/or adjusting personnel time, these measures do not provide adequate funding and operational supports to serve those in the community to whom services are so important. As an anchor of collaborative nonprofits in Austin, we believe that the allocation of \$6.0 million in unrestricted funds to support nonprofit organizations is important to the survival of these organizations and would provide much needed services to Austin residents.

We believe this measure by City Council to ensure rapid deployment of funding would mean the difference between survival and extinction for many nonprofits. We have already seen important programs in our community cease due to COVID-19 and our community cannot afford to lose additional services provided by our nonprofit partners.

Thank you for considering the approval of agenda item 23 at the City Council meeting on May 7, 2020. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Sincerely,



Mike Nellis

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Austin Community
Foundation

Raul Alvarez

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Community
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Madge Vasquez

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