

Economic Supports for Sites, Staff and Families

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, “Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”
— Fred Rogers

New federal legislation with impacts for nonprofits, including you!

On Friday, March 27th, Congress approved a \$2 trillion stimulus package.

Here’s an overview of the provisions for human service organizations overall from the [Alliance for Strong Families and Communities](#).

Specifically, we want sites to be aware of the forgivable loans and other supports your agency can access to keep your doors open and employees paid.

- To this end, [This Guide to the Care Act](#) from the Small Business and Entrepreneurship committee is helpful to understand the different options available.
- Specifically for the Paycheck Protection Program, the US Chamber of Commerce has developed an emergency loans checklist which makes it easy to understand. [See the checklist here](#).

To access these funds, you will need to go through a bank. While it may seem abnormal to go get a loan from a bank for your nonprofit organization, this was the fastest way for Congress to ensure organizations could access cash quickly. You will want to start the process by calling the bank you typically use for your organization. Many banks are quickly developing additional guides on their websites to help you access these funds as well.

[The Nonprofit Finance Fund](#) has a set of tools you may find useful as you calculate the gap of funding you need to meet and work to fill it.

Requirements for paid leave: Requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave and/or family/medical leave related to COVID-19.

[Learn more here](#) from the US Department of Labor.

[A Better Balance offers helpful tips](#), and is also providing a free legal helpline if you have questions.

Where to look to find supports in your city/county:

Many city, county and state governments are putting into place additional resources to support families and communities. The best place to look for those resources in on your city/county/state government websites.

Financial Assistance:

Financial Guide

From unemployment, to student loans, taxes and more, the New York Times has a great round up of resources on [their site here](#). (Free to access if you give them your email address).

Unemployment



For those who need to apply for unemployment, [this is a good how-to guide](#). Even if you think you may not qualify for unemployment typically, the government has expanded unemployment, and you might. For instance, you are eligible for unemployment if:

- An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work;
- An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and
- An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member.
- States can now also extend unemployment benefits to self-employed and gig workers.

You can start the unemployment application [here](#).

\$250 grants for families

Up to \$250 assistance to families via phone applications only with costs associated with delivered food, medication, diagnostics, transportation and telehealth as a result of COVID-19 risk or incidence. <https://www.healthwellfoundation.org/fund/covid-19-fund/>

Specific funds by industry

There are also organized national relief funds for [freelancers](#), [service workers](#), and [restaurant workers](#).

Mutual Aid

What is “mutual aid”? Mutual Aid groups are informal networks of people within a geographical area, who combine funds to help other neighbors in their same area. These funds are usually distributed without the same level of barriers and complication of formal networks.

How to find a mutual aid network near you:

- [This map](#) has attempted to capture many across the country
- Also try researching online, searching for “mutual aid” and your location.

Housing

Matthew Desmond (author of Evicted) has worked to create a new website, Just Shelter, filled with resources for those who may be facing housing challenges. You can click on each state to learn more.

<https://justshelter.org/community-resources/>

Free and low-cost internet

Digital inclusion has compiled a list here: <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/free-low-cost-internet-plans/>

For undocumented and mixed-status families:



My Undocumented Life has pulled together a list of helpful resources [here](#). [This list of resources](#) may also be helpful.

Food

Feeding America: All sites w/in the US are open, they have food banks in every city and county in the US. [Find your local food bank](#).

SNAP State Directory: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory>

Meals on Wheels, for those 60+. [Search by Zip Code](#).

Stress and coping:

SAMHSA: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is offering the “Disaster Distress Helpline”, offering 24/7 crisis counseling for people experiencing distress. Call 1-800-985-5990, or learn more here.

See additional resources [from the CDC here](#).

Multi-service support:

Salvation Army: Currently with 7600 centers in the US, offering the following services:

- Drive through grocery pick up and drop off when needed
- Emotional and spiritual care virtually
- Offering space for other nonprofit use
- Providing childcare for health workers
- Providing shelter, food, shelter, anything communities need.

United Way: Many United Way offices are offering COVID-19 specific support. Call 211, or [find your local United Way here](#).