

# ORANGE COUNTY GRANTMAKERS

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Kamala Harris  
United States Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510

Subject: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act

Dear Senator Feinstein:

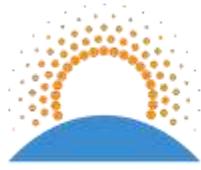
On behalf of Orange County Grantmakers, an association of philanthropic leaders in Orange County, we respectfully request that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act or CARES Act (as proposed by Senate Majority Leader McConnell on March 19, 2020) include support for the nonprofit sector. Charitable organizations are frontline responders for our community as we all come together to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, we ask that the bill:

- Expressly include charitable nonprofits in the \$200 billion loan fund for businesses, including airlines. The charitable sector needs an immediate infusion of \$60 billion and the loan program is a fast way to get cash in the hands of organizations facing lost and declining revenue due the pandemic while still serving the immediate needs of the community.
- Improve the above-the-line charitable deduction by raising the cap to \$2,000 and allowing all taxpayers to immediately claim the deduction on their 2019 taxes and afterwards through 2021.
- Clarify that charitable nonprofits of all sizes are able to participate in the emergency Small Business Loan Program by using the tax law definition of charitable organizations (Sec.501(c)(3) public charities) and removing the language that excludes nonprofits that are eligible to receive Medicaid reimbursements.

The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic facing our country is having a profound impact on the economy and has greatly expanded the need for charitable organizations to provide additional services in an unprecedented manner. At the same time, many of these nonprofits are being asked to do more work with fewer resources. Nonprofits often operate on a lean budget. They may rely on volunteer support to operate their services and a day or two without staff or a full volunteer base can have devastating impacts on their organizations and the individuals they serve. Additionally, many of the events and key fundraising activities that nonprofits rely on for financial security have been canceled, often without the ability to recoup lost expenses.

Philanthropy has responded to this crisis. In Orange County, Orange County Grantmakers has joined with our fellow philanthropy stakeholders the Orange County Community Foundation, St. Joseph Community Partnership Fund and Charitable Ventures to develop a pooled fund to support the non-profit and service community during this pandemic. We recognize we are positioned to play a crucial



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role in responding to this public health challenge. As of today, the philanthropic community through our OC Community Resilience Fund has raised \$1.553M in contributions. We expect this number to grow. We also recognize however, that philanthropy alone cannot address the need – we lack the size, scope and scale of the federal government.

Without dramatic and immediate financial support from Congress, America’s charitable nonprofits and people are our nonprofit partners serve will face a decline in services at the exact time they are needed most.

Orange County Grantmakers consists of over 35 of the largest public, private and corporate philanthropic contributors in Orange County. Our organization works in partnership with community leaders and nonprofits to support a thriving philanthropic sector. We believe in advancing social impact by supporting, strengthening, and building adaptive leadership across our nonprofit and philanthropic community.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Taryn Palumbo, Executive Director at [Taryn.Palumbo@ocgrantmakers.org](mailto:Taryn.Palumbo@ocgrantmakers.org) or by phone at (714) 900-2998.

Thank you for your consideration.

Taryn Palumbo  
Executive Director  
Orange County Grantmakers

*This statement is on behalf of Orange County Grantmakers. This represents the position of the organization as a whole, and does not imply that OC Grantmakers members individually uphold this position.*