



Lutheran
Services
in America

April 8, 2020

Dear Members of Congress:

I write to you today on behalf of the one in 50 Americans who rely on the 300 Lutheran health and human services providers throughout the United States that comprise [Lutheran Services in America](#). With our active presence in over 1,400 communities in 46 states as seen [on this map](#), our work is critically important in improving the lives of America's most vulnerable people, ranging from seniors, veterans and people with disabilities to children, youth and families, and the homeless.

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically affects all of the people we serve and services we provide. Our 300 health and human service organizations are on the frontlines caring for people while taking extraordinary steps to protect their staff and people served. Yet they increasingly struggle with equipment shortages, especially personal protective equipment; severe workforce shortages necessitating hazard pay; declining revenue; and the need to reduce or eliminate needed services. These severe challenges are occurring while our organizations simultaneously face limited cash reserves, decreasing revenue and already-tight margins.

Our work is deeply embedded in communities across the country where we have provided services for over 150 years. Yet our work—which comprises a significant part of the health and human services delivery system—cannot continue without specific measures taken soon to support nonprofit health and human service organizations with over 500 employees. Without needed resources to support nonprofit health and human services organizations during this time of crisis, we will be unable to meet the increasing needs of individuals and communities at their most vulnerable time.

For these urgent reasons, we strongly urge you to include in your upcoming fourth emergency relief package the specific measures below.

1) Access to Financial Relief for Health and Human Services Nonprofits with Over 500 Employees: Appropriate \$200 million for forgivable loans for non-hospital nonprofits with 500 or more employees for payroll support, modeled on the Paycheck Protection Program.

2) Targeted Financial Resources for Nonprofit Front Line Health and Human Services Providers: \$100 billion for a new program to provide grants to certain non-hospital health and human services nonprofits to cover unreimbursed expenses attributable to the coronavirus public health emergency:

- Eligible entities would be nonprofits of any size in the health and human services field that are greatly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and that perform work in these areas/in these facilities: skilled nursing facilities; senior living facilities; PACE programs; services including transition care and services for people with disabilities; assisted living facilities; providers of residential children and youth services; and home-based services such as home health and hospice.
- Funds would be used to cover rising costs of labor, supplies, and provision of care, including: purchase of personal protective equipment and related, needed supplies; additional costs associated with accepting and/or being assigned COVID-19 patients, including costs tied to increased Medicare or Medicaid reimbursement rates for COVID-19 patients; workforce safety costs, and increased costs for retaining and/or increasing/training staff.

3) Additional support for certain nonprofit unemployment insurance costs: Provide for 100% reimbursement of the cost of unemployment insurance benefits paid by nonprofits who self-fund these benefits.

4) Funding for vulnerable youth and children:

- Increase funding for The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)
 - Title I by \$500 million to ensure state and local child protection systems have the necessary technological and protective



resources to prevent the interruption of vital support services to children and families during the pandemic.

- Title II Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CB-CAP) grants by \$1 billion to quickly deploy resources directly to locally-driven prevention services and programs.
- Increase funding to Title IV-E Chafee funds by \$500 million to allow states additional funding to support older youth in care and transitioning out of care.

We are available to provide any additional information or background needed for you to push for the above specific resources in your fourth economic relief package, including related data from our current member organization survey, and firsthand testimonials from our organizations on how the pandemic is affecting the care and services they provide every day for so many people nationwide.

Thank you in advance for giving your time and rapid attention to this crucial issue. Our 300 health and human services organizations and the one in 50 Americans we serve each year are counting on you during this historic pandemic.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlotte Haberaecker".

Charlotte Haberaecker
President and CEO