

County of San Mateo
Board of Supervisors
April 27, 2020

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

Good morning - my name is Georgia D. Farooq, and I'm the Executive Director of Thrive, The Alliance of Nonprofits for San Mateo County. Thank you for this opportunity to address you all.

As many of you know, Thrive Alliance recently conducted a survey to gauge the scope of the impact that the COVID-19 crisis has had on San Mateo County nonprofits. Of the 135 nonprofit organizations that responded, 87% are anticipating cash flow issues, 93% have already cut services, and 67% have canceled fundraising events. Not only does this present a growing list of concerns for operational security and service delivery, but organizations anticipate a worsening of conditions as the pandemic persists. This paints a clear picture of the urgent need for continued emergency assistance of San Mateo County nonprofit organizations.

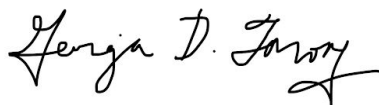
As the Board decides how best to continue to use relief funds, Thrive Alliance wishes to submit this statement of support for our local nonprofit organizations to ensure that nonprofit leader voices are being amplified effectively, and that our sector is being represented thoroughly and holistically. To this end, we wish to highlight three of Thrive's recommendations for action published in our COVID-19 Nonprofit Impact Report:

1. Recognize nonprofits as a sector that economically contributes to San Mateo County beyond the role as a service provider. The nonprofit workforce and the health of the sector should be addressed holistically.
2. Continue to pay contracts and grants with nonprofits if they are unable to deliver on contracts due to site closures or suspension of services and activities, and/or allow for a redirection funds to respond to directives related to COVID-19.
3. Disburse emergency funds even more rapidly when possible. Nonprofit organizations need cash assistance immediately, along with definitive timelines for planning purposes.

Additionally, we ask that the Board of Supervisors take steps to address the needs of those organizations outside the narrowly defined issue areas. Arts, education, and environmental nonprofits are businesses that need our support, too - and they are vital for a vibrant community. We recommend exploring creating dedicated funds for neglected sub-sectors like the arts.

Finally, we would like to thank the Board of Supervisors and the County Manager's Office for their tireless support of the San Mateo County community throughout this crisis. We applaud your efforts in your critical emergency assistance of individual nonprofit organizations, and also ask that you proceed forward by investing in the health of the nonprofit sector as a whole.

Sincerely,



Georgia D. Farooq
Executive Director
Thrive Alliance