

Forefront

NONPROFIT NEEDS DURING COVID-19

Given the widespread and diverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Forefront and our partners committed to learning more about the immediate and mid-term impacts COVID-19 is having on 501(c)(3) organizations in Illinois, including frontline service providers. Forefront has summarized the data in this initial report.



On Monday, March 16, Forefront administered a survey open to all Illinois nonprofits inquiring about their staff, programmatic, and organizational needs in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. More than 1,300 nonprofits from across the state submitted responses. Organization responses ranged from staff sizes of less than 5 to 100+ staff, with annual operational budgets from less than \$100,000 to \$10+ million.

As Forefront extrapolates and analyzes this data, the preliminary information allows us to respond immediately to this crisis and fulfill the needs of the sector now and as they develop.

We heard one consistent message from across the nonprofit community: **Organizations and communities need flexible financial resources right now.** Based on the survey results, Forefront makes the following recommendations for funders and the public sector.

501(c)(3) organizations in Illinois need:

- **General operating support**
- **Funding extensions**
- **Restricted grants changed to unrestricted**
- **Eased reporting and application rules for grants**



KEY FINDINGS



- 1** **The philanthropy community should focus on supporting individuals in need** (such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness, poverty and mental illness) with financial resources being directly invested into communities as well as direct service providers.
- 2** **The philanthropy community must leverage its considerable advocacy influence** to deepen collaboration and strengthen coordination with local and federal governments.
- 3** **501(c)(3) organizations in Illinois need clarity and direction** about how they may support their clients, compensate their staff, maintain staff health (physical and mental), and provide services (especially health) remotely.
- 4** **501(c)(3) organizations in Illinois are looking for support to create teleconferencing/telecommuting/telehealth structures.**
- 5** **Technical support is needed** in addition to flexible grants to support investment in software and hardware for staff and clients.

ADDITIONAL NOTES



Overall, **83% of responding organizations are already experiencing significant impact** to their programs, services, and general operations, and they anticipate that this impact will continue to intensify. Specifically, organizations are experiencing high levels of disruption to their ability to provide services (77%) and to their ability to generate revenue (78%).

Many are also experiencing **increased demand for services (44%), increased and sustained staff and volunteer absences (60%), and disruptions to supplies/services provided by partners (40%).**

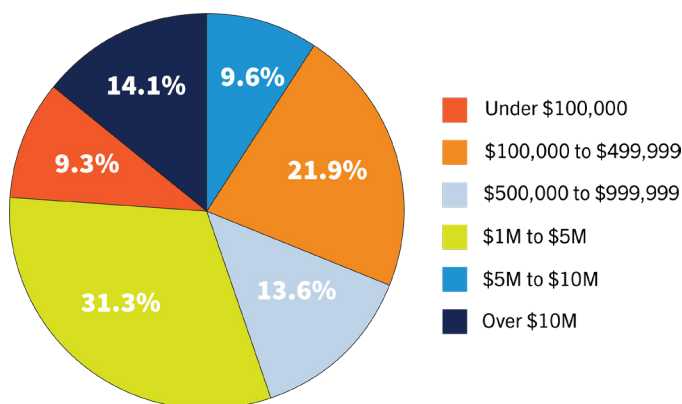
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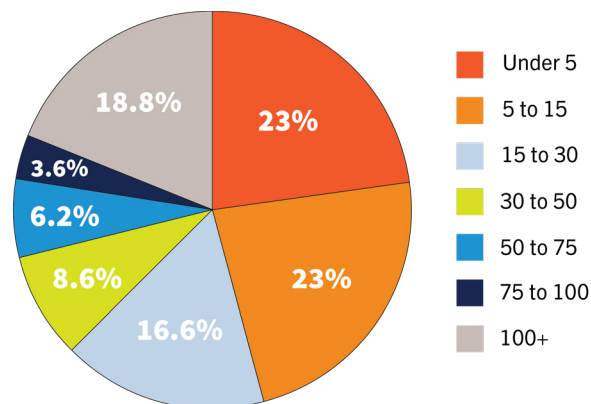


SURVEY REPRESENTATION

Operational Budget Size



Staff Size



COUNTIES REPRESENTED

Responses were received from Illinois-based organizations and serving the following counties: Adams, Alexander, Bond, Boone, Brown, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Champaign, Christian, Clark, Clinton, Coles, Cook, Crawford, Cumberland, DeKalb, DeWitt, Douglas, DuPage, Edgar, Edwards, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Franklin, Fulton, Gallatin, Greene, Grundy, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Iroquois, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Knox, Koch, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Mason, Massac, McDonough, McHenry, McLean, Menard, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Moultrie, Muscatine, Ogle, Peoria, Perry, Piatt, Pike, Pope, Porter, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Rock Island, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Scott, Shelby, St. Clair, Stark, Stephenson, Tazewell, Union, Vermilion, Wabash, Warren, Washington, Wayne, White, Whiteside, Will, Williamson, Winnebago, and Woodford.

GET INVOLVED

Learn about how you can join Forefront in supporting the social impact sector and get essential resources during the COVID-19 outbreak, go to MyForefront.org/COVID-19.