Forefront
COVID-19 Funder update call
March 26, 2020
On Monday, March 16, Forefront administered a survey open to all Illinois nonprofits inquiring about their needs in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.

More than 1,300 nonprofits from 102 counties 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 $20+ million.
Which of the following impacts has your organization experienced or do you anticipate experiencing?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancellation of programs or events</td>
<td>93.67 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disruption of services to clients and communities</td>
<td>77.82 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disruption of supplies or services provided by partners</td>
<td>41.02 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased and sustained staff and volunteer absences</td>
<td>60.36 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increased demand for services/support from clients and communities</td>
<td>44.87 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgetary implications related to strains on the economy</td>
<td>79.27 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>20.51 %</td>
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We heard one consistent message from across the nonprofit community: organizations and communities need flexible financial resources right now.

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

• General operating support
• Funding extensions
• Program and project grants released from restriction
• Eased reporting and application rules for grants
Key recommendations for philanthropy from survey respondents:

1. Focus on supporting individuals in need. Invest resources directly into communities as well as direct service providers.

2. Deepen efforts to coordinate with fellow funders as well as local and federal governments.

3. Limit the number of surveys, grant reports, complex application questions, or other data collection requests made of organizations that are already overtaxed by increased demand for services and decreased capacity.

4. Leverage your advocacy influence. Nonprofits 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.

5. Provide technical support as well as flexible grant funding. Nonprofits are looking for support to create teleconferencing/ telecommuting/telehealth structures. They need investment in software and hardware for staff and clients.
Illinois Partners is a coalition of 800+ Human Service organizations representing every legislative district in Illinois. Last week we conducted 7 virtual focus groups with 120+ coalition partners across the state. They identified the following needs:

- Flexible and unrestricted funding, extension on grant deadlines, accessible applications for emergency funding
- Investment in small organizations (particularly those serving communities of color) who rely heavily on philanthropic donations
- Investment in downstate Illinois
COVID-19 Cultural Sector Impact Assessment
Responses as of Wednesday, March 25, 9am CT

ALL RESPONDENTS (300 organizations)
Note: Survey asks for estimated losses due to a temporary closure from March 16 to April 30 (45 days).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of individual performances/programs/events affected by a temporary closure</td>
<td>23,079</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total attendees/participants/audience members affected by a temporary closure</td>
<td>2,423,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization's estimated lost revenue due to a temporary closure</td>
<td>$83,733,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of FULL-TIME jobs affected by a temporary closure</td>
<td>3,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated lost wages to FULL-TIME STAFF due to a temporary suspension</td>
<td>$16,459,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of PART-TIME AND CONTRACT jobs affected by a temporary closure</td>
<td>13,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated lost wages to PART-TIME AND CONTRACT STAFF due to a temporary suspension</td>
<td>$33,977,982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United Way of Metro Chicago
Survey Result Overview

• Providing information to clients
• Reducing, amending and closing services/facilities
• Increasing safety measures, remote work
• Widespread cancellation of fundraisers, concern about economic downturn

• Top Needs
  • Flexible funding and grantors
  • Personal Protective Equipment & cleaning supplies
  • Informational updates
Our Response to COVID-19

• **City of Chicago partnership:** Co-leading citywide effort to ensure food access during pandemic.

• **Our network:** With some exceptions our network of community food pantries and programs across Cook County remains open.

• **Modifications:** To serve people quickly and safely, our partners are offering more pre-packed boxes of groceries and meals-to-go.

• **Volunteers:** Packing boxes of food in our warehouse for distribution to the network. We have adjusted projects to promote social distancing.

• **Benefits outreach:** Connecting people to SNAP and Medicaid by phone. No need to visit public aid offices.
Statewide Response to COVID-19

• **Food:** Demand for food and program assistance is expanding daily. Foodbanks are purchasing more product than ever before, reinforcing the need for direct financial support.

• **Volunteers:** Increasingly, volunteers are staying home essentially forcing some agencies to close or take precautions to protect their mostly-senior workforce. This is also impeding foodbanks' ability to sort, process, and pack foods and boxes.

• **Modifications:** All the food banks have expanded or incorporated some type of mobile, drive-through, or knock-and-drop distributions to facilitate social distancing.

• **Benefits outreach:** More requests from people help access SNAP benefits. Northern Illinois Food Bank and St. Louis Area Foodbank report receiving more referrals in a day than they would usually receive in a month.

• **Greatest needs reported:** Funds, Food, Volunteers

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**Illinois Food Banks**

- **Central Illinois Foodbank** (Springfield)
- **Eastern Illinois Foodbank** (Urbana)
- **Greater Chicago Food Depository** (Chicago)
- **Northern Illinois Food Bank** (Geneva)
- **Peoria Area Food Bank** (Peoria)
- **River Bend Foodbank** (Davenport, IA)
- **St. Louis Area Foodbank** (Bridgeton, MO)
- **Tri-State Food Bank** (Evansville, IN)

Members of Feeding Illinois & Feeding America
MISSION:

- Arab American Family Services is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that changes and impacts the quality of life by serving and building stronger and healthier generations of Arab Americans in our communities.

Key Benefits of Our Products / Services
1. Helps struggling local neighbors overcome personal crisis and meet their basic human needs
2. Provides respectful, compassionate counseling in the areas of public benefits, immigration, domestic violence, mental health, and elderly services
3. Assists Arab speakers in their native language and provides translation services to mainstream agencies
4. Sponsors outreach programs to improve public health and welfare

Key Benefits of Our Products / Services
1. Empowers individuals, strengthens families, and builds a healthier local community
2. Caring, compassionate and culturally sensitive service
3. Builds bridges of respect and understanding between cultures
4. Provides leadership to overcome cultural myths and taboos that have kept some Arab Americans from obtaining the help they need
AAFS’ Overview

Arab American Family Services
Fact Sheet 2018
www.aafsil.org

Founded in 2003 by two Arab American women, the mission of Arab American Family Services (AAFS) is to change and impact the quality of life by serving and building stronger and healthier generations of Arab Americans in our communities. Headquartered in Worth, AAFS addresses the many unmet needs and concerns of low-income Arab American and other immigrant families in more than 35 communities in the South Suburban Chicago area.

As a locally focused, nonpolitical and nonreligious agency, AAFS takes a leading role in building respect and understanding between Arab American and mainstream American cultures. In 2018, AAFS served over 15,000 households, impacting over 45,000 individuals across the region. Our culturally and linguistically competent services include:

- Comprehensive Case Management
- Elderly Services
- Mental Health Services
- Advocacy, Policy & Civic Engagement
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
- Immigration Legal Services
- Youth Leadership
- Cultural Equity Training & Technical Assistance

CENSUS 2020
AAFS leads the Arab American Local Complete Count Commission, with over 40 partners, to ensure every Arab American in Illinois. Pledge to fill out the Census today...

IMPAKT HIGHLIGHTS
4,500 meals provided to seniors over 60 years old
750+ female survivors of domestic violence assisted with safety planning & legal advocacy
120 individuals applied for citizenship 80% now citizens
10,000+ individuals enrolled in Medicaid, Food Stamps/SNAP, Social Security, LIHEAP, & other benefits
436 children received backpacks & school supplies in back to school drive
Led efforts to pass the Anti-Registry Act SB3488
2500+ new registered voters over past 4 years

15,148 Households
59,293 Family Members

85% Arab Americans
66% Female
34% Gender
4 Average Household Size

$1,664,667 2018 Budget