COVID-19: What should Nonprofits be Thinking About? Resources
March 16, 2020

General Links

Great short video from National Council of Nonprofits: How We Can Support Each Other and Our Communities During the Coronavirus Crisis

COVID-19 Resources from The Management Center

COVID-19 Resources for Nonprofits and Funders from Bridgespan Group

Coronavirus Sparks and Epidemic of People Helping People, Seattle Times

Advocacy Links

Open letter to funders from Washington Nonprofits

Open letter to elected officials from Washington Nonprofits

Why Nonprofits Must Be Included in a COVID-19 Relief and Economic Stimulus Package From National Council on Nonprofits

Nonprofit Advocacy Matters (3/16/20): Policy Responses to Coronavirus

Brave Commitments Op-Ed

Models/Examples

Pierce County AIDS Foundation Message to Constituents
Pierce County AIDS Foundation Continuity of Operations Plan
Workplace policy (Washington Nonprofits)
Because of the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington State, Washington Nonprofits is requiring staff members to follow these guidelines until further notice. We will adjust our policies as indicated based on guidance from King County Public Health and Washington State Department of Public Health.

- Stay home if you are sick with cough, sneezing and/or fever. Notify your supervisor. Take sick time if you are unable to work productively. If your symptoms are more minor, you may choose to work from home.
- If you have known exposure to a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, please consult with your supervisor to determine next steps.
- Take the following precautions to protect yourself and others at work:
  1. Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  2. Cough and sneeze into the elbow or into a tissue. Throw away the tissue immediately after use and wash hands.
  4. Frequently clean and disinfect surfaces in your home and workplaces.
Most jobs at Washington Nonprofits allow for staff members to work remotely. If you have not been notified that your role requires you to be in the office, until further notice, you are encouraged to work at home even if you are not sick. You may also work at the office if you prefer, observing safety guidelines above.

Sample letter regarding office shut-down (National Council of Nonprofits)

Dear Allison, Amy, David, Rick, and Tiffany:

Although I’ve talked with each of you individually, I’m writing to share the decision-making process with everyone and our board that, as developments continue to unfold regarding COVID-19, I’ve decided to close our office in Washington, DC, until further notice. Here’s why:

- **Commitment to Our Team:** We want to promote and protect the safety and well-being of all of our employees – those who may fall within the CDC’s determination of higher at-risk and those who do not. *Everybody* on our Team counts.
- **Commitment to Our Community:** We are part of a broader community, here in DC, here in the U.S., and here on the planet. Even if one of us contracts a milder or asymptomatic case of the virus, we may spread it to others. Much has been made of the need to “flatten the curve” of the spread of this disease. Our health care system simply cannot handle a spike in cases. Every trip on the Metro that one of us takes risks us contracting and spreading this virus. And, even if the people we spread it to experience “only” mild symptoms, they may spread it to others who are at a higher risk. It is our responsibility to do our part in slowing this thing down.
- **Commitment to Our Network and Mission:** We already know that remote capabilities exist and work because we already have two full-time remote teammates. It will require some adjustments, but we can do it.
Accordingly, I’m closing our office as soon as is practical. If that means allowing until COB tomorrow, so you can bring in a bag from home to collect things you may need over the next couple weeks, that’s fine. (I have bags now if you want to do it today.) But no later than the end of the day tomorrow. The closure is “indefinite” for right now because we don’t know the timeframe for when things will calm. My hope is that we’re looking at only a couple of weeks, but we simply don’t know right now.

BTW, we’ll be holding Team meetings more often than just once a week. I want more check-in opportunities for everyone to exchange information we’re hearing from the network and elsewhere so we can keep ourselves and the network informed. Plus, we may be able to share “coping” mechanisms for working remotely. (I’ve heard that turning off the TV and not refreshing your news feeds are paramount to avoid getting hyped up from what’s happening beyond our own control.) Finally, for you extroverts (and you know who you are!), I don’t want you feeling isolated since you won’t be able to stroll down the hall to pop into other offices!

Please let Rick and me know if you have any special technology or other needs.

And, follow this sound advice from years ago, let’s be careful out there...

Tim

Tim Delaney | he/him/his
President & CEO
National Council of Nonprofits
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Inspiration

The world today is a scarier, more uncertain place than usual. Quarantines, economic instability, and political strife seem to be the new normal. Never before has the work of community-led nonprofits—promoting grassroots leadership, lifting up women’s voices, providing access to the underserved, and otherwise creating resiliency—been more critical to creating a just, healthy, and equitable society. And while corona concerns have us steering clear of one another, our collective work is a lynchpin that brings us closer together.

Darius Rodríguez Heyman, Blue Avocado

Serenity prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.

- Reinhold Niebuhr
Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath —
the most sacred of times?

   Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now, on trying to make the world
different than it is.

Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
   in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)

   Know that our lives are in one another’s hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love —
   for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.
— Lynn Ungar 3/11/20

Learn more here: https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/mary-schmich/ct-met-schmich-pandemic-poem-20200314-yywfy7th2nbc5cufvnb7qhvfm-story.html?fbclid=IwAR2YLexqNko2nLeM9rhygZLsy_uUQTDeEq8Ew82HAgewvhjxUfSkvONLwasQ