



April 6, 2020

Hon. Melissa McCaw
Secretary
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Secretary McCaw,

The CT Community Nonprofit Alliance asks that you give an across-the-board funding increase to all providers of health and human services under contract to the State of Connecticut to help meet the increased costs of responding to COVID-19. An across-the-board increase was recently granted to nursing home operators.

A few weeks ago the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) announced a 20% rate increase for providers dealing with COVID-19. For the last quarter of the current Fiscal Year 2020, we request that you increase funding for all community nonprofits by the same level as DDS providers are receiving. If you were to provide that across-the-board it would total roughly \$200 million.

We urge you to provide this increase for all grant-funded programs, fee-for-service programs or Medicaid-billable services. Many positions in nonprofit organizations are funded by a variety of sources (including commercial insurance), making the commitment to not lay off any staff impossible to achieve if only grant funding is kept whole. Such a policy would help maintain the continuity of services necessary for programs to continue after the crisis has passed.

We believe an across-the-board approach would be significantly easier to administer for providers and state agencies. It would relieve providers who are funded by multiple agencies which are operating under different rules and it would spare the departments' staff of the need to make individual judgements about funding requests filed by contracted agencies who are audited and overseen by the state.

We also ask that you allow community nonprofit providers to retain any state funds at the end of the fiscal year and give them flexibility to spend state dollars across line items. These changes will give community nonprofit providers the ability to do everything they can to stay in business through this crisis.

I know the current crisis has made your difficult job even harder and appreciate the work that you and other state officials are doing to see that Connecticut makes it through this crisis strong, united and fiscally sound. Best wishes for success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gian-Carl Casa".

Gian-Carl Casa
President and CEO

cc: Paul Mounds, Chief of Staff, OTG
Josh Geballe, Chief Operating Officer, OTG

CT Community Nonprofit Alliance

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