



September 17, 2021

Honorable Ned Lamont
Governor of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

Thank you again for your leadership during the pandemic. We appreciate that Connecticut continues to do well in its response compared to so many other states.

The pandemic continues to impose costs on community nonprofits as they work to provide services and retain a stable and healthy workforce. Many face severe financial hardship after years of underfunding and recent COVID-related costs, putting programs at risk of closure. We ask for your help.

Four months into the fiscal year most nonprofits have yet to learn the amount of new funding they will be receiving from the budget passed earlier this year. Staff shortages are worsening as many pandemic-stressed employees leave for jobs that pay better or have less responsibility and stress. Because nonprofit leaders still don't know how much funding they are getting they can't promise help to their employees, as they can only pay according to what the state provides them.

We ask that you expedite payment to nonprofits of the funds budgeted for them. At a minimum we ask that the state tell them the amounts they can expect and when the funding should be expected. Without the increased funding, staff outflow can be expected to continue, and programs reduced or closed.

Nonprofit leaders support vaccination, but those who are included in the mandate to vaccinate and test need help to comply. Workforce shortages could be exacerbated by the mandates. The September 27 deadline is difficult for many to meet, record-keeping requirements are cumbersome, and testing imposes costs. For example, one large nonprofit expects to hire an HR staff person to keep track of the vaccinations and testing. Another provider anticipates spending \$8 per test, and with 400 unvaccinated workers, will have to spend \$3,200 each week.

We ask either that funding be provided for these mandated costs or that the state help establish testing sites or mobile testing units to provide free testing. In at least one other state, the state provided training, all the test kits, and an app so providers can more easily track compliance.

We'd like to work with your administration to develop a plan to help compliance, including funding necessary to retain/attract employees and ensure that services remain uninterrupted for those who depend on them.

Thank you for your consideration.

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
Melissa McCaw, Secretary, Office of Policy and Management