



**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**  
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March 20, 2020

Honorable Corey Johnson  
Speaker of the New York City Council  
250 Broadway, Suite 1804  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Speaker Johnson:

On behalf of our board, staff and the 73 community-based organizations we serve in New York City, Hispanic Federation thanks you for your leadership and quick action in response to COVID-19. We specifically applaud your recent proposal for a \$12 billion relief plan to help impacted workers and businesses. As you know, community-based nonprofits are in essence small businesses and are rapidly seeing the harmful economic effects of this pandemic. We are writing to request that community-based nonprofits are expressly included in your economic relief plan.

The importance of our sector to the economic and social well-being of our city cannot be overstated. Nonprofits alone account for 16% of the private workforce, compared to 10% nationally. The 73 Latino community-based organizations we proudly represent employ thousands of professionals and support staff across our five boroughs: from social workers and immigration lawyers to after-school program staff and health navigators. They serve the most vulnerable populations in our city and keep millions of our residents afloat financially, socially and mentally. Together, we provide families with food and clothing, help people gain skills to become employed, help homeless families find shelter, assist families in obtaining health insurance and maintain healthy lifestyles, and provide countless other services that are heavily relied upon. In short, our agencies make our communities stronger not only by providing needed services but also by serving as engines of economic activity.

COVID-19 has radically exposed why it is crucial for our organizations to continue supporting all sectors. Homeless left without shelter will continue the spread; sick family members without insurance, afraid of hospital bills, will continue the spread; people living paycheck to paycheck will not call out of work and continue the spread. Because of guidelines to discourage person-to-person contact, nonprofits are quickly adapting operations to continue to provide services and once society is able to convene, our organizations will be on the front lines helping people rebuild their lives.

The 2008 Great Recession caused America's nonprofit sector to suffer, especially those smaller nonprofits that are pillars within their communities. In fact, between 2008 and 2010, 13.5% of the nation's public charities closed. We must learn from the past and make sure the same mistakes are not made again. Nonprofits must remain viable; we must survive this in order to ensure America's society thrives again.

We urge you to include explicit language regarding nonprofits in your economic relief plan for businesses so that we are able to obtain the support we need to sustain our crucial operations and grow to meet the inevitable influx of needs brought about by COVID-19. We know that the effects of this pandemic will have long-term unprecedented global consequences, but we commit to remaining on the front lines to guarantee the prosperity of all New Yorkers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frankie Miranda". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Frankie Miranda  
President  
Hispanic Federation