

Sample Letter

Date

Senator Name
Senator Address

Dear Senator Name,

Organization Name is grateful for your continued leadership in supporting nonprofit human services organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sector is at the frontline of this pandemic providing food, shelter, childcare, mental health, and other critical services, and their survival or failure directly impacts how quickly communities will be able to recover from the pandemic. Human services providers need economic relief, so we ask that you continue to advocate for the needs of the sector in any forthcoming COVID-19 federal legislation.

Include description of organization, mission, number of clients served, etc.

Establish discrete funding for nonprofit organizations.

Human services nonprofits of all sizes receive much of their funding through underfunded government contracts and they only pay about 80 cents or less of each dollar of true program delivery costs, leaving budget gaps that private philanthropy cannot fill. Include information about having to reduce staff or services due to budget shortfalls.

Expand nonprofit access to emergency grants and loan programs.

We are grateful that the HEROES Act expanded the PPP eligibility requirements to nonprofits with more than 500 employees. Include information about how the 500-employee cap in the PPP is affecting your organization and how important it is that nonprofits are not left out of any economic relief programs.

Provide incentive pay for essential human services workers.

We are grateful that the legislature supports incentive pay through the Heroes' Fund for essential workers and hope that you continue to consider human services essential workers as they are being called on to assist families whose lives have been disrupted by this pandemic. Include information about your staff, their risk to exposure, the lack of PPE, and how they are still working to serve their communities.

Increase aid to states and localities.

We are appreciative that the HEROES Act included relief funds for New York State, municipalities, counties, and especially New York City. Include information about how providers rely on government funding for program services and how this could shut down programs, what affect it would have on the people you serve and the sustainability of your organization.

Expand charitable giving incentives.

Charitable giving incentives should be strengthened to encourage New Yorkers to support their communities through donations, including expanding the above the line charitable deduction from \$300 to \$2,000 and extending the effective date of the incentive. Include information about how your organization is losing fundraising dollars and how this will affect your programs and your organization.

Organization Name is grateful for your leadership in implementing the CARES Act and supporting the human services sector. We hope that you continue to consider nonprofit human services organizations in future stimulus decisions and understand the crucial role that they play during the pandemic and its aftermath.

If you have any questions, please contact **Staff Name** at **Email Address**.

Sincerely,

Organization Name