



Tsiporah Nephesh, Executive Director  
New Mexico Thrives

November 20, 2020

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor  
State of New Mexico

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham,

Thank you for your leadership in calling a Special Session on November 24. You indicated that the purpose is to provide relief for the people of New Mexico. Please include nonprofits in the eligibility for the grant funds, because nonprofits mobilize funding to help people.

Nonprofits have been on the frontlines serving our communities. Demand for aid and services has increased. Making grants to nonprofits will enable them to keep serving our communities. For the same reasons it is important to fund small businesses, it is important to fund nonprofits. Funding nonprofits will

- Save jobs
- Prevent the closures of organizations providing vital services to our communities.

Only 1,168 of the 8,590 nonprofits in New Mexico received PPP loans. The All Together NM Fund could only help a small portion of nonprofits. The CARES Act funding that went to municipal and county governments was supposed to be available to nonprofits. However, some of the local governments were requesting business licenses or GRT reports as part of the application process. This effectively barred access to nonprofits seeking funding.

Nonprofits need funding to continue serving their communities and continue their existence to be able to provide services in the future. A specific funding stream for nonprofits would be a good way to get funding and assistance out to the communities most affected by the pandemic. Funding should be prioritized funding for organizations serving indigenous people and communities of color, rural and frontier communities, immigrant and LGBTQ communities.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the people of New Mexico. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tsiporah Nephesh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tsiporah Nephesh, Executive Director  
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Cc Speaker Brian Egolf  
Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth