Help for Nonprofits During the Coronavirus and Uncertain Economic Times

The following stories from the Chronicle can help your nonprofit plan and prepare for the impact of the coronavirus on your workers and volunteers — and your finances.

What We Have Learned From Crises and Can Use in Coronavirus Age
Laura MacDonald, a fundraising expert, says previous catastrophic moments — like 9/11 and the Great Recession — offer important lessons on how to respond today. Most important: Reach out to big donors now because those that felt ignored sometimes stop giving altogether when the economy and the situation around the world brightens.

Experts Urge Charities to Talk to Their Donors Now
Fundraisers might struggle with what to say, but in times of crisis, it’s critical to maintain open lines of communication with supporters. The future of the relationship may depend on it.

How One Group That Serves the Homeless Is Responding to the Crisis
Miriam’s Kitchen in Washington, D.C., has canceled its volunteer program and moved its feeding program outside to allow for social distancing. The changes have been costly.

Grant Maker Responses for Nonprofits in Need Vary Widely
The Ford Foundation is easing restrictions on many of its existing
How to Help the Most Vulnerable Through the Pandemic (Opinion)

The coronavirus will take a greater toll on people who were marginalized before the crisis started. It isn’t too late for the nonprofit world to do something about it.

Nonprofit Advocacy Groups Praise House Coronavirus Bill

Trump has indicated he will sign the bill, but the legislation faces an uncertain fate this week in the Senate, where some Republicans are expressing concerns about various provisions.

The Coronavirus Outbreak Could Prove Why Donor-Advised Funds Serve Society Well (Opinion)

While many people criticize the funds for sitting on assets, if history proves right, donors will send lots of money to charities doing essential work as global health and the economy are at risk.

As Disasters Go, Coronavirus Impact on Philanthropy Unprecedented and ‘Crazy’

Regine Webster, who leads the grant making and consulting teams for the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, talked with the Chronicle about how the coronavirus is different from anything the center has dealt with previously.

Responding to the Coronavirus Outbreak: Resources to Help Nonprofits

A collection of advice and tools to help nonprofits deal with the uncertainties surrounding the virus, including managing and leading, communicating, fundraising in a crisis, taking events online, and remote work.

Update: Association of Fundraising Professionals Joins NTEN and SXSW in Canceling Its Conference

AFP was among the last holdouts among major philanthropy organizations holding conferences this spring. Many organizers are offering refunds or virtual alternatives.

Coronavirus ‘Rapid Response’ Funds Proliferate as Threat Grows

Also, a coalition of 30 national nonprofits and charity advocacy groups is urging Congress to include nonprofits in any stimulus package enacted in response to the coronavirus.

Coronavirus Is Hard on Nonprofits That Rely on Events

Some nonprofit watchers are pushing foundations to help fill the revenue gaps, while others urge nonprofits to come up with alternative events that will keep donors on board.
As Coronavirus Threat Continues, Experts Tell Nonprofits to Shore Up Reserves

Nobody knows whether the economy will face as deep a struggle as it did in 2008, a year when charitable giving plunged 5.7 percent, but nonprofit experts say it’s time to be ready.

Nonprofits Work to Protect Employees and Volunteers as Coronavirus Threat Grows

Habitat for Humanity is suspending its volunteer building projects, and charities are taking other steps to limit travel and encourage remote work. At least one is worried about the impact on fundraising involving large gatherings of supporters.

Coronavirus Giving Tops $1 Billion Worldwide

At least $729 million has been pledged from sources based in China, and $182 million from U.S. sources, including $100 million from the Gates Foundation, according to Candid, a foundation research group.

Consultants Fear Coronavirus Will Hurt Fundraising, Survey Shows

Preliminary results of a survey by the Nonprofit Alliance also show that one third of fundraising consultants are advising their clients to prepare for the financial impact of the virus.

Nonprofit Conference Attendees Worry About Coronavirus

Several major nonprofit-related organizations are holding gatherings this spring that will draw thousands of attendees from all over the world. SXSW is under increasing pressure to cancel its annual event.

Coronavirus: 6 Steps for Grant Makers to Take Now to Ensure Nonprofits Recover (Opinion)

Lack of flexible funds and reserves will cripple many nonprofits; grant makers can help by loosening reporting rules and restrictions and maintaining grant levels even as the stock-market swoon hurts their endowments.

How Philanthropists Can End the Cycle of Panic and Neglect for Disease Outbreaks (Opinion)

As the coronavirus spreads, it’s time for donors to provide the money emergency responders need now and to set the stage for work that prevents these horrific diseases.