NEW SURVEY REVEALS COVID-19 WILL CHANGE NONPROFITS FOR YEARS TO COME

Over 12 months of disaster philanthropy, new global data reveals the state of the world’s nonprofits and insights on how funders can help


The survey included nonprofits worldwide that have survived the pandemic’s often devastating financial effects. It provides insight into how charities have successfully adapted their programs and pivoted their offerings while informing donors how to best support their critical work.

“Over the past year, we have regularly surveyed nonprofits across the globe to better understand the ways COVID-19 has changed how they operate, interact with donors, and serve their communities,” said Ted Hart, President and CEO of CAF America. “This report unveils key findings that will inform the future of philanthropy and help donors understand how their philanthropy can best make an impact in 2021 and beyond.”

The report findings highlight how nonprofits stepped up to provide much-needed support to their communities. Over 70% of charities changed their strategies and priorities to include new services and programs, while nearly one in five charities had to limit programmatic initiatives due to social distancing and financial constraints. Nearly 70% of respondents say the challenges presented by the pandemic have increased over time.

The data also demonstrates that flexible support from donors was critical to meet these growing needs. Nearly 38% of nonprofits reported that donors provided need-based funding, and over 28% said donors allowed for the funding of operational expenses such as salaries, rent, utilities, and technology. Almost half of the nonprofits received grant extensions, and 36% could change their existing grant purpose.
Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 95% of the responding charities have adopted new strategies and plan to retain these changes in the coming months and years. These strategies include:
  - Online programming (61.63%)
  - New service offerings (53.06%)
  - New fundraising strategies and campaigns (54.08%)
  - Collaborating/partnering with nonprofits (40.61)
  - Programming focused on relief or essential services (30.41%)

The results suggest charities struggle to develop much-needed resilience amid severe disruptions. Of the respondents that have managed to remain operational through the pandemic, over 55% feel confident that their organization can successfully face the next crisis, while 37% feel moderately confident.

12 Months Later: The State of the World’s Nonprofits is the latest installment in CAF America’s series of reports documenting insights from charities since the start of the COVID-19 global pandemic. To learn more about CAF America, their COVID-19 Reports, and the specific findings in Volume 7, please visit cafamerica.org/covid19report/.

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About CAF America
A leader in international philanthropy, since 1992 CAF America (Charities Aid Foundation of America) has been assisting corporations, foundations, and individuals in making strategic, effective, and tax-advantaged gifts internationally and domestically. Whether supporting organizations worldwide, providing swift responses to major disasters, or helping build connections between global communities, CAF America turns donors' visions into impact. CAF America’s worldwide reach translates into more than $1.5 billion in donor funds and over 1.8 million eligible organizations in 110 countries.