



# OPEN LETTER

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## **Democratic People of Color Caucus Issues Call to Action: Non-Profits Require Direct and Immediate Assistance from Government and Grant-makers**

Governor Kate Brown  
Speaker Tina Kotek  
Senate President Peter Courtney  
Co-Chair Paul Holvey  
Co-Chair Arnie Roblan  
Grant-making Community

Dear Fellow Oregonians,

There is no denying that the health and wellness of all Oregonians comes first. Yet, it is apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic, is equal parts health and economic crisis. Industries of all sizes and sectors are suffering and exponentially more so are the members of Oregon's working class and low-income communities.

We the Democratic POC Caucus know that "now is the time that our commitment to equity and diversity—better said, [our] commitment to justice—[is being] tested."\* Now is the time to put the needs of those plagued by the inequities in our society and hardest hit by this pandemic, first. Now is the time to center the needs of communities of color, immigrants, mixed status, undocumented, asylum seekers, domestic violence victims, women, trans and the gender non-

conforming, the un-housed, agricultural farmworkers, those currently and formerly incarcerated, and all vulnerable Oregonians.

To do so, we request \$25M-\$30M be directed to the Oregon Community Foundation to distribute among the nonprofit community with particular attention to culturally specific nonprofit organizations who have seen this need for decades, have carved out a way to meet it, and have earned the trust of their communities. And as highlighted in a recent NY Times [article](#), we also petition the funding and philanthropic community to generously and expeditiously match the \$25M-\$30M in order to build a stronger, more immediate and impactful response where it is desperately needed the most.

Finally, we ask that federal, state and local level governments and other semi-governmental entities like districts continue to honor previously awarded grant funding and accommodate nonprofits through temporarily relaxing grant and contract reporting for 60-90 days. Further, we request that these entities pay invoices within 30 days to maintain adequate access to cashflow and cover essential program and payroll obligations. Failing to take these simple steps could force Oregon to lose some of our most precious assets- those on the front lines of helping those in need.

Respectfully,

Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon  
Rep. Janelle Bynum  
Rep. Akasha Lawrence Spence  
Rep. Mark Meek  
Rep. Tawna Sanchez  
Sen. Lew Frederick  
Sen. James Manning

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\*Se-ah-dom Edmo, *We Will Remember*, Nonprofit Quarterly. March 24th, 2020.