

Strengthening Civic Infrastructure in Budget Reconciliation

September 13, 2021

The Honorable John Yarmuth, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith, Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Yarmuth, Chairman Sanders, Ranking Member Smith, and Ranking Member Graham,

We write to express our support for key investments that could be enabled by the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, and implemented through reconciliation legislation. These investments – outlined in the [Committee Print to Accompany S. Con. Res. 14](#) – could bolster community and civic structures that ensure all communities across America, especially those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, can rebuild, engage, and thrive.

We are members of the Nonprofit Infrastructure Investment Advocacy Group (NIIAG), a coalition of over 50 organizations that supports policies recognizing the essential role community and civic infrastructure plays in meeting the challenges of the pandemic and the need to rebuild our nation. Nonprofit organizations have played a critical role in responding to this crisis, and key investments would help them further contribute to uplifting communities in the months and years to come. We are grateful that the Committee Print identifies numerous priorities outlined in the most recent [NIIAG policy agenda](#) and we urge you to include these provisions as reconciliation legislation moves forward.

Specifically, we write to express our support for the following provisions referenced in the Committee Print:

- **Child care for working families** – The pandemic laid bare America’s broken child care system, and women – who comprise 66% of the nonprofit workforce – have been disproportionately impacted as they carry an outsized caregiving burden. For nonprofits to continue to support our communities and build back a strong economy, we need significant investment in childcare infrastructure, including home-based childcare. We urge you to invest at least \$25 billion to build a supply of infancy and toddler care in high-need areas, in addition to providing universal Pre-K education.
- **Workforce development and job training** - Employees of nonprofit organizations comprise more than 10% of the nation’s workforce, and nonprofit jobs led the way to recovery after the most recent recession. We urge you to invest \$100 billion in workforce funding, including funds for registered apprenticeships, worker protection, and community colleges. These trainings and wraparound services can help dislocated workers gain new skills and find employment in highly sought job sectors, including those that are core to the nonprofit sector, such as caregiving and clean energy. We also support further investment in an equitable workforce through funding to HBCUs, Tribal colleges and universities, and other institutions meeting the needs of underserved communities.
- **Community investment, development and revitalization** - Nonprofits are at the center of community recovery, development, and resilience, but it is a job that is too big to shoulder alone. Investment of \$24 billion in the Community Development Block Grant will provide critical flexible funding for cities, states, and

tribal communities to address gaps in housing, infrastructure, and public services in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. We also urge you to provide additional funding to improve facilities frequently used for nonprofit services, such as schools, parks, child care facilities, government buildings and veterans' hospitals.

- **Creation and preservation of affordable housing** - Access to affordable, structurally sound housing and community facilities is a key component in effective nonprofit services. We urge you to invest in improving aging buildings and homes through a \$25 billion investment in the HOME Investment Partnerships Program to support new construction and rehabilitate existing housing stock. We also call for \$213 billion to build and retrofit over two million homes and commercial buildings.
- **Civilian Climate Corps** - Nonprofits long have been at the forefront of promoting both environmental conservation and civil service. We urge you to invest \$30 billion in new funding for a diverse Civilian Climate Corps, primarily through Americorps, dedicated to building the environmental infrastructure necessary to reduce emissions and support healthy, resilient communities while developing the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and putting them on a path to good paying jobs.
- **Consumer rebates to weatherize and electrify homes** - As widespread working and learning from home continues for nonprofit employees and constituents, it becomes increasingly important to ensure households can pay increased energy costs. We also urge you to be sure that additional energy efficiency incentives or credit programs for businesses or employers are designed to include nonprofit institutions.

We thank you for the work that you and your colleagues continue to do to ensure an equitable recovery from this crisis, in ways that make America better than before. Nonprofit organizations are an indispensable and trusted partner in this work. That is why we support these provisions and ask you to work for their enactment.

Nonprofits need these tools to go about the business of rebuilding our future, and we need your help.

Sincerely,

Americans for the Arts Action Fund
City Parks Alliance
Communities in Schools
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy
Council of Michigan Foundations
Goodwill Industries International, Inc
Grantmakers in the Arts
Independent Sector
KABOOM!
Leadership Foundations
Maryland Philanthropy Network
MENTOR
National Community Action Partnership
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Recreation and Park Association
National Urban Indian Family Coalition
Native Ways Federation

Points of Light
Service Year Alliance
States for Service Coalition
Strive Together
The Henry Ford
United Philanthropy Forum
United Way Worldwide
VolunteerMatch