



COVID-19 External Survey Data Review

Overview

There have been a number of surveys regarding the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the nonprofit sector. The following provides a single place for the main findings from those surveys.

Surveys included to-date include:

- [COVID-19 Nonprofit Workforce Trends Report](#), UST, May 2020
- [COVID-19 Survey Results](#), Nonprofit Finance Fund, March 2020
- [The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#), CAF America, May 2020
- [Impact of the Pandemic & Economic Shutdown on the Nonprofit Sector](#), Charity Navigator, April 2020
- [The Impact of COVID-19 on the Social Sector](#), La Piana Consulting, March 2020
- [How Are Small Businesses Adjusting To Covid-19? Early Evidence From A Survey](#), National Bureau of Economic Research, April 2020
- [It's Different This Time: Handling Nonprofit Staff Cuts under COVID-19](#), Nonprofit Quarterly, April 2020
- [Nonprofit Leader COVID-19 Survey Findings](#), University of San Diego, March 2020
- [Nonprofit Needs During COVID-19](#), Forefront, April 2020
- [Nonprofit Needs Survey Results](#), Center for Nonprofit Excellence, May 2020
- [Rapid Response Survey: The COVID-19 Crisis and New Jersey's Non-Profit Community](#), Center for Nonprofits (New Jersey), March 2020
- [Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, et al., March 2020
- [The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), CAF America, March 2020
- ['We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times': COVID-19's Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), Catchafire, March 2020

We continue to update and edit this document as more research and materials become available. If you know of a survey that should be included, please email it to Sean Luedke (seanl@publicallies.org).

How widespread is the impact on the nonprofit sector?

Only 13% of nonprofits indicated that they do not foresee the coronavirus global pandemic having a negative impact on their organization in the coming year. ([The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#), May 2020)

96.5% of organizations are reporting being negatively impacted by the global pandemic. ([The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), March 2020)

- Only 10 of the 544 organizations surveyed indicated that they do not expect to be negatively impacted by the pandemic.
- 43% of organizations are providing direct services to those affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

99.5% are currently being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

What is the impact already being seen?

Financial

50% of the respondents indicated that they foresee a decline of more than 20% in contributions within the next 12 months. Only 6.43% are projecting an increase in their revenues. ([The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#), May 2020)

When asked how much of their organization's revenue would be threatened if current restrictions remain in place, nearly half of respondents said they anticipate 50% or more of their revenue is at stake. ([COVID-19 Nonprofit Workforce Trends Report](#), May 2020)

- 21% of nonprofits predict they could only sustain their organization under their current strategy for 2 months or less before needing to drastically reduce costs and/or secure new revenue. ([COVID-19 Nonprofit Workforce Trends Report](#), May 2020)

83% of nonprofits have reported they are suffering financially, with those organizations expecting an average decline in revenue of 38% for the months of April through June. ([Impact of the Pandemic & Economic Shutdown on the Nonprofit Sector](#), April 2020)

78% have experienced a decrease in revenues. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

- 0-10% reduction in revenues: **18%**
- 10-20% reduction: **26%**
- 20-40% reduction: **28%**
- 40-60% reduction: **16%**
- 60-80% reduction: **7%**
- 80-100% reduction: **6%**

In a recent La Piana survey of more than 400 nonprofits, 26 percent had lost 50 to 100 percent of their revenue, and 44 percent had lost up to 49 percent. ([The Impact of COVID-19 on the Social Sector](#), March 2020)

74% have canceled in-person fundraisers. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

71% have experienced budgetary implications related to strains on the economy. ([Rapid Response Survey: The COVID-19 Crisis and New Jersey’s Non-Profit Community](#), March 2020)

52% have had a loss of earned income revenue. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

40% have had a decrease in donations from individuals. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

18% have had a decrease in grant funding. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

67.93% of the respondents have seen a decrease in funding and reported difficulties in reaching donors, while 33.97% indicated an increase in operational costs. ([The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), March 2020)

47% have reduced costs. ([The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), March 2020)

25% have had an increase in expenses. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

- 81% of those experiencing an increase have had increases of 20% or less.

86 percent had already made changes to their programming; 52 percent were “worried” or “very worried” about their near-term financial health (which, of course, directly impacts staffing decisions); 20 percent had already limited hours, furloughed, or laid off staff; and 24 percent had not yet limited hours, furloughed, or laid off staff, but thought it was likely. ([It's Different This Time: Handling Nonprofit Staff Cuts under COVID-19](#), April 2020)

57% of nonprofit leaders reported they are “very likely” to make payroll in the next four weeks and that percentage declines to 35% eight weeks from now. Fourteen percent of nonprofit leaders said they are “very unlikely” to make payroll in the next four weeks. That percent increases to 24% in the next eight weeks. ([Nonprofit Leader COVID-19 Survey Findings](#), March 2020)

Staff

12% of nonprofits have laid off staff, 17% have reduced salaries, and 30% have furloughed employees in order to manage the impact of the pandemic on their organization. ([The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#), May 2020)

17% of nonprofits have reported having to eliminate or reduce positions. ([COVID-19 Nonprofit Workforce Trends Report](#), May 2020)

11% of organizations report closing an office completely due to the inability to work remotely. ([Impact of the Pandemic & Economic Shutdown on the Nonprofit Sector](#), April 2020)

27% of respondents have or are planning to lay off staff due to the pandemic, while 13% expect to hire additional staff to meet increased programmatic demand. ([Impact of the Pandemic & Economic Shutdown on the Nonprofit Sector](#), April 2020)

- 35.3% of respondents also report a shortage of volunteers.

On average, nonprofits have had to lay off or furlough 19% of their staff. ([The Impact of COVID-19 on the Social Sector](#), March 2020)

30% have experienced or anticipate staff layoffs or furloughs due to loss of revenue or curtailed programs. ([Rapid Response Survey: The COVID-19 Crisis and New Jersey's Non-Profit Community](#), March 2020)

60% are experiencing or anticipate experiencing increased and sustained staff and volunteer absences. ([Nonprofit Needs During COVID-19](#), April 2020)

44% have had increased and / or sustained staff and volunteer absences. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

Services, Events, and Operations

More than 60% have reported that they had to eliminate or suspend some of their regular programs and services. ([The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#), May 2020)

- 13% have had to suspend all work because operations cannot be moved online. ([The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#), May 2020)

43% of nonprofits have modified operations extensively (without eliminating positions) and 13% have suspended all or most operations. ([COVID-19 Nonprofit Workforce Trends Report](#), May 2020)

64% of respondents reported having to cut back on their programs, while 23% of respondents are seeing an increase in demand for their programs. ([Impact of the Pandemic & Economic Shutdown on the Nonprofit Sector](#), April 2020)

90% of New Jersey nonprofits indicated they have already or would soon have to cancel programs or fundraising events. ([Rapid Response Survey: The COVID-19 Crisis and New Jersey's Non-Profit Community](#), March 2020)

76% have reduced or canceled programming. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

86% have canceled in-person events. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

88% have had a disruption in services to clients and communities. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

10% of organizations are closed and suspended their work while 62% are working remotely and have suspended some of their client-facing programs. ([The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), March 2020)

87% of New Jersey nonprofits reported significant or moderate disruptions to programs or operations. ([Rapid Response Survey: The COVID-19 Crisis and New Jersey's Non-Profit Community](#), March 2020)

83% of Illinois nonprofits reported significant impact on programs, services, or general operations. ([Nonprofit Needs During COVID-19](#), April 2020)

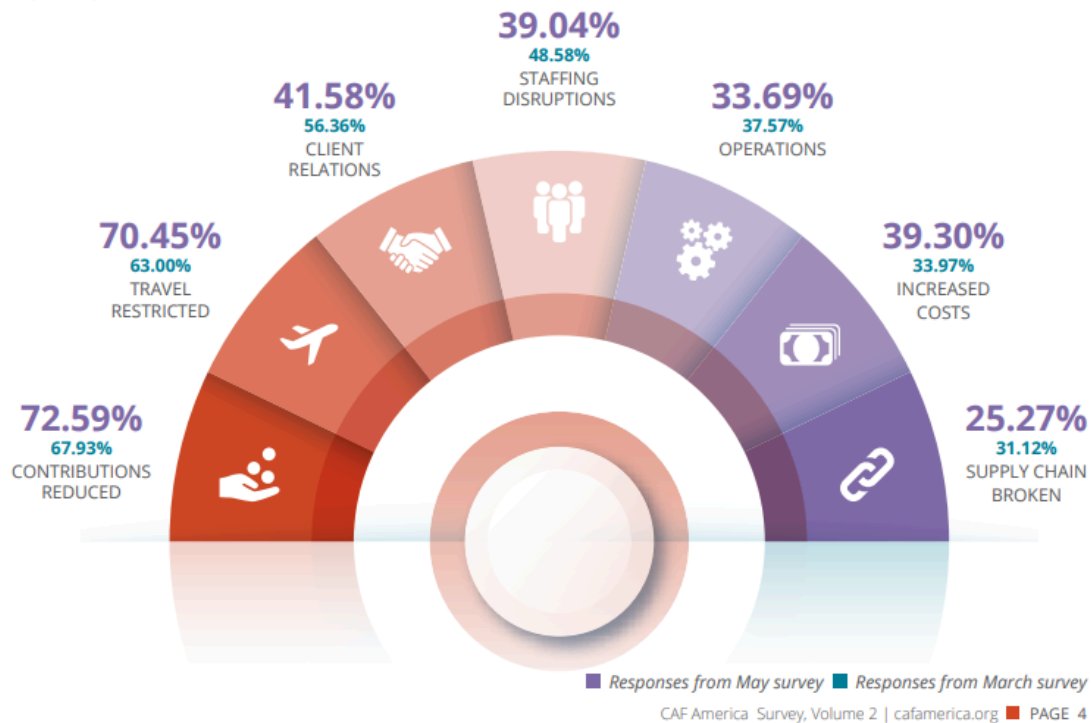
94% have cancelled or anticipate cancelling programs or events. ([Nonprofit Needs During COVID-19](#), April 2020)

Over 65% of respondents had to shift short-term goals to adjust operations during the pandemic. ([The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), March 2020)

45% have experienced or anticipate experiencing increased demand for services / support from clients and communities. ([Nonprofit Needs During COVID-19](#), April 2020)

If YES, which areas of your organization are being impacted by the coronavirus global pandemic?

(N=748)



27% have experienced an increased demand for services. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

What is the anticipated future impact?

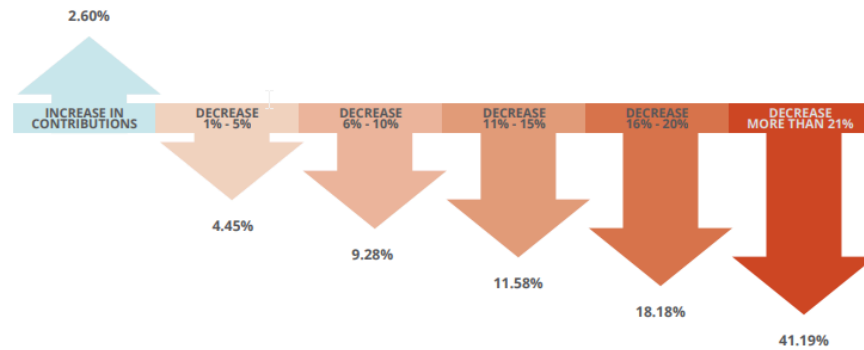
56.1% of nonprofits say that it is somewhat likely (32.6%) or extremely likely (23.5%) that they will make further staff reductions. ([The Impact of COVID-19 on the Social Sector](#), March 2020)

96% of New Jersey nonprofits anticipate significant or moderate operations to their programs or operations moving forward. ([Rapid Response Survey: The COVID-19 Crisis and New Jersey’s Non-Profit Community](#), March 2020)

- “It was also emphasized that marginalized and disenfranchised communities, and the organizations serving them, were likely to be disproportionately affected by the crisis.”

97% of nonprofits are projecting a decrease in funding in the next 12 months. ([The Voice of Charities Around the World](#), March 2020)

What impact on contributions (revenues) do you expect the coronavirus pandemic to have on your operations in the next 12 months? (N=539)



66.3% of nonprofits say that it is somewhat likely (42.5% or extremely likely (23.8%) that they will make further reductions in services. ([The Impact of COVID-19 on the Social Sector](#), March 2020)

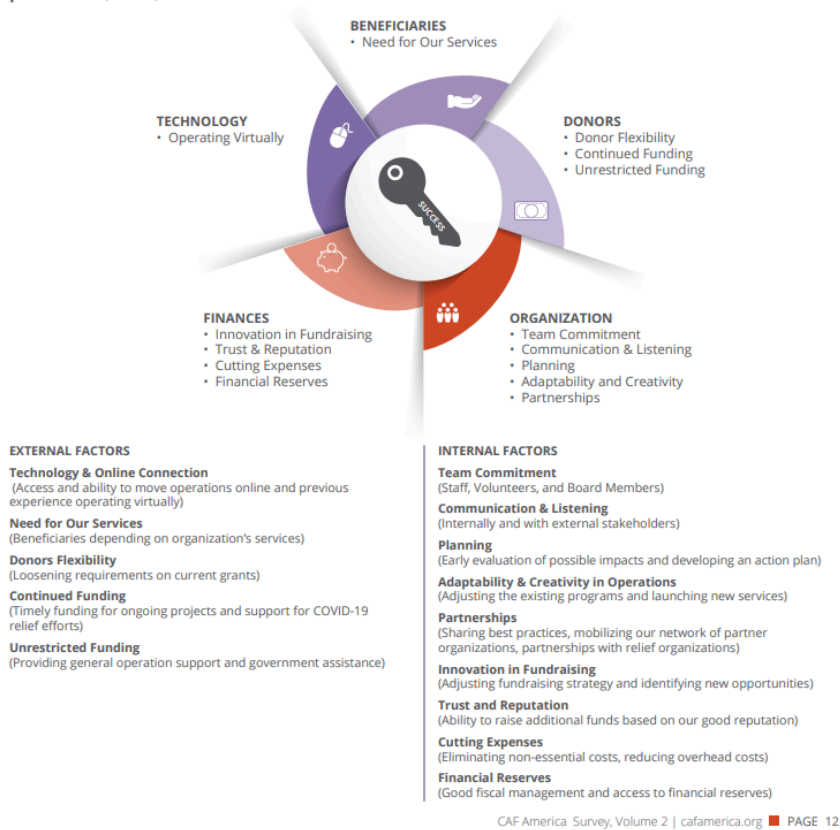
Nonprofit Needs / Keys to Successfully Continuing Operations

[The Voice of Charities Facing COVID-19 Worldwide](#) report by CAF had a pretty good summary on this, so it is provided in full below:

“When asked about the key to successfully continuing their operations, the respondents highlighted three overall determining factors: access to technology and the ability to move operations online; their team’s commitment, adaptability and creativity; and access to continued funding.

On a more detailed level, the responses revealed strategic foresight, careful planning, and good fiscal management. Successful organizations reported innovation in programs and fundraising strategies, activated their networks for partnerships, and were able to raise additional funds leveraging the trust and reputation built with their donors and the community.”

What is the key to your organization managing to successfully continue its operations during the pandemic? (N=710)



No stats on these, but Nonprofit Finance Fund reported top needs named by nonprofits right now include ([COVID-19 Survey Results](#), March 2020):

- Nonprofits need flexible funding or general operating support.
- Nonprofits need access to immediate funding for urgent needs.
- Nonprofits need to be able to take care of clients and staff during this crisis.

72% need help with alternative, digital fundraising strategies. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

48% need help with remote work best practices and affordable teleconferencing tools. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

53% need resources to support remote work and converting in-person events to virtual formats. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

34% need email marketing, messaging, and social media assistance. ([‘We had a Shoestring Budget in Good Times’: COVID-19’s Devastating Impact on the Nonprofit Sector](#), March 2020)

29% need legal guidance on human resources. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

49% want learning about the impacts on other nonprofits and / or their responses to the pandemic. ([Survey: Ongoing Impacts of COVID-19 on MA Nonprofits](#), March 2020)

Additional Materials

Made available on April 13, 2020, the [National Bureau of Economic Research's How Are Small Businesses Adjusting To Covid-19?](#) is the most comprehensive study on the impact of COVID-19 so far. The results do not specifically look at the nonprofit sector though, so they are not included below. However, key points include:

- When firms are told to expect a one-month crisis, the expectation of remaining open by the end of the year hovers around 70% across all industries with the exception of Arts and Entertainment, and Personal Services. In those industries, the expectation of remaining open drops to 65% and 57% respectively.
- When firms are told to expect a six-month crisis, the average expectation of remaining open falls to 38%, and there is significant heterogeneity between sectors.

Further key points are highlighted in the document linked above.