naaee
North American Association for Environmental Education

Stimulus Funding: Getting Families Back to Work with Environmental Education

Environmental Education is key to re-opening the United States:

- Environmental education associations and providers are among the millions of nonprofits and small businesses who have shuttered programs across the country as a result of coronavirus closures
- Nevertheless, these educators are working hard to continue supporting schools, communities, and families with online resources and distance learning, continuing to provide high quality education and connection to nature through virtual experiences, teacher professional development, curriculum, and so much more
- Many caregivers will be returning to work this summer and will need safe, small group size child care often provided through summer camps and educational programming
- Many of the organizations providing this programming are losing revenue and struggling to maintain staffing and operations without the ability to run physical programs or events and adapt to the safety considerations needed
- Small program providers struggled to access relief funding under the CARES Act because they didn't have an existing relationship with a lender, were asking for sums too small for banks to bother with, or simply were unable to submit an application before funding ran out
- Many of these nonformal education programs are small nonprofits that rely heavily on charitable donations to sustain their work

Therefore, we ask that Congress:

Expand and improve access to payroll protection and other relief funding:

- Extend the PPP through 2020 and incentivize leaders to prioritize processing of applications for small nonprofits
- Include provisions for covering salaries if/when partial reopening allows for some programming to resume at a greatly reduced scale to allow for proper social distancing and other health and safety issues
- Subsidize private residential education programs and other nonformal education and recreation programs (outdoor schools, residential camps, etc) that may not be able to operate at all for the remainder of 2020

Strengthen charitable giving incentives

- Expand the universal charitable deduction provision in the CARES Act by removing the $300 cap and retroactively apply this to charitable donations made between March 13 and before the new July 16 deadline for filing 2019 taxes

Business interruption coverage

- Consider legislation to mandate business interruption policies cover COVID related claims and that the federal government would reimburse 100% of claims