COVID-19 Support for Cambridge Nonprofits
Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, Process
- Objectives for Meeting
- Updates and immediate material or outreach needs
- Survey Results: COVID-19 Impact on Cambridge Nonprofits
- Working Groups and other Supports
- Next Steps
Objectives

- Share results of COVID-19 impact survey
- Finalize working groups and identify next steps
- Provide space for institutions that can help to learn about Cambridge nonprofit needs and activities
- Update nonprofit leaders with new COVID-19 information
- Identify immediate material/outreach needs
Updates ([Link to notes in chat box](#))

- Application should be live for Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)

- Verizon-LISC Small Business Recovery Grant Application ($3 million)

- Cambridge Volunteer Clearinghouse and Mutual Aid Networking are working on translating Cambridge food line info and distributing flyers

- Other updates and/or needs
COVID-19 Impact on Cambridge Nonprofits
Survey Results
Executive Summary

- Nonprofits are a critical part of our Cambridge ecosystem as employers and service providers

- Many are under severe financial stress now, caused by sharp decreases in revenue due to COVID-19

- All are worried about their viability in the longer term
Executive Summary

- Nonprofits are communicating and seeking funds in new ways
- Most are still operating, finding alternative ways to serve their clients and families. Alignment with “going virtual” varies
Executive Summary

● Nonprofits are looking to public and private institutions to provide significant financial relief to ensure the sector will be able to contribute to recovery

● As a critical part of the service delivery system for Cambridge, nonprofits should be further integrated into a coordinated Cambridge COVID-19 community response
Number of employees

n= 57 Cambridge-based nonprofits representing 1000+ total employees in Cambridge

Average of 40 years in operation
Mission areas: responding nonprofits
Almost 50% unsure if they can sustain operations past June
Can operate for the duration of the crisis through:

**May**
- Yes: 71.9%
- I don't know: 22.8%
- No: 5.3%

**June**
- Yes: 52.6%
- I don't know: 36.8%
- No: 10.5%
Short-term financial impact

74% experiencing or anticipating a decrease in revenue
Fundraising Events

56% canceled or postponed, with only 4% switching to virtual fundraisers.
Tuition & Fees

50% depend on tuition and fees

Closing programs = significant, immediate financial loss
Main sources of income

- Foundation grants: 60%
- Individual donations: 55%
- Fees + tuition: 50%
- Fundraising events: 35%
- Government contracts: 30%
“As we rely on small individual donors and foundation grants, we’re at risk of not making our shoestring budget goals for the year.”

“The message needs to be made loud and clear across the City that, without serious financial support, many nonprofits are going to shut their doors temporarily or permanently.”
Raising funds:

- **46%** are pursuing emergency grants/loans + negotiating with funders
- **11%** are making public + donor appeals
- **11%** are trying to switch to remote strategies
Communicating with funders differently:

“We’re reminding our funders that we’re still operating and need their support.”

“We’re communicating the impact of the crisis on survivors of sexual violence.”

“Contacting funders, asking for funds to be redirected to general operating. Ask[ing] corporate sponsors to maintain sponsorship despite events not happening.”
90% of nonprofits are still active

- Closed organization for the time-being
- Combination of in-person services and remote support
- Continuing in-person services at usual rate
- Increased in-person services
- Switched to remote support for program participants
Range of program fit with a virtual approach:

“Figuring out how to do our services well remotely is our biggest challenge.”

“Offering some online resources, but these generate very little income.”

“As community's needs increase, the ability to provide adequate services remotely will be difficult.”
Hard decisions on staffing are approaching

- Furloughed staff: 4.6%
- Layoffs: 6.2%
- Salary reductions: 6.2%
- Less hours: 12.3%
- More hours: 13.8%
- No change: 56.9%
Requests:

- Nonprofits need our institutions to provide financial relief to the sector in a more robust way
- Different across institutions- could include
  - Converting program grants to operating support
  - Increasing grant amounts
  - Faster pay schedules
  - Increasing contract amounts, paying more up front
  - Reducing reporting requirements
Requests

- Nonprofits are a critical part of our service delivery system in Cambridge and need to be more fully integrated into a coordinated community response to COVID-19
Questions
Working Groups and Next Steps

- Proposed working groups and other supports

- Next Steps
  - Identify working group leads
  - Schedule working group meetings
  - Select experts/orgs for other supports