



CNC Recommendations for Cambridge Redevelopment Authority (CRA) Forward Fund

The proposed CNC recommendations below respond to the following realities, based on the data we have collected through the [two nonprofit sector surveys](#) that CNC has conducted since the pandemic struck and that are supported by [national trends](#):

- **There is widespread and urgent need:** Nonprofit organizations across the city have an immediate and critical need for financial support, in order to address the immediate and critical community needs.
- **Nonprofits are facing capacity challenges:** Nonprofit staff are already stretched thin adapting to the current reality and addressing the dramatic increases in community need.
- **Nonprofits are facing cash flow and financial challenges:** Many nonprofits are struggling with immediate cash flow shortages, major reductions in income, and zero or very limited cash reserves.

Recommendation Summary: CNC is grateful that the CRA is considering changes to the Forward Fund in an effort to better meet the needs of Cambridge residents and the nonprofits many Cambridge residents rely on. As the local sector continues to adjust to the new realities that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, we deeply appreciate all efforts to bolster our ability to provide the critical support our community needs at this time.

Our intent with these recommendations is to ensure available funding is distributed quickly, done in a way that is as impactful as possible, and reduces barriers to accessing these funds.

CNC Recommendations:

Funding Approach for 2020 Forward Fund:

- Utilize the remaining dollars from the 2020 Forward Fund for grants of up to \$1,000 per organization, for the purpose of purchasing PPE, cleaning supplies, and/or other supplies and equipment that will allow for safe in person programming.
- Design and administer a simple process to allow for disbursement of these funds by the end of November 2020.

For the 2021 Forward Fund:

- Increase the amount of funding available to Cambridge serving nonprofits to \$500,000
- Apply a broad definition of capital projects in a manner that aligns with the kinds of [capital defined by Nonprofit Finance Fund](#). This approach will provide nonprofit leaders with the necessary flexibility to sustain their organizations through the COVID-19 crisis.
- Allow organizations to define their approach to addressing the broad impact of COVID-19 on the consumers and community they serve, and the ability of their organizations to operate.

This position is supported by the following 51 Cambridge Serving organizations:

Maria LaPage, Organization formerly known as Agassiz Baldwin Community

Rouwenna Altemose, All In Energy

Gina Scaramella, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center

Dan Yonah Marshall, Brookline/Cambridge Community Center for the Arts, Inc. (BCCA / CCCA)

Sharon Zimmerman, Cambridge Camping Association

Darrin Korte, Cambridge Community Center

Susan Fleischmann, Cambridge Community Television

Tina Alu, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee

Bernette Dawson, Cambridge Families of Color Coalition

Robert Gittens, Cambridge Family and Children's Service

Theodora Skeadas, Cambridge Local First

Meg Ramsdell, Cambridge School Volunteers

Laurie Rothstein, Cambridge Volunteer Clearinghouse

Jessye Kass, Cambridge Women's Center (Women's Educational Center, Inc.)

Catherine Carr Kelly, Central Square Theater

Laura Jasinski, Charles River Conservancy

Jane Hirschi, CitySprouts Inc

Erin Muirhead McCarty, Community Art Center, Inc.

Gail S. Packer, Community Dispute Settlement Center, Inc.

Salvatore Bramante, Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts

Michael Delia, East End House

Ben Clark, Enroot Inc.

Sasha Purpura, Food For Free

Steven Nutter, Green Cambridge

Shiela Moore, Hildebrand Family Self Help Center

Peter Daly, Homeowner's Rehab Inc.

Michael K. Dawson, Innovators for Purpose

Norma Finkelstein, Institute for Health and Recovery

Sarah MacDonald, Life Science Cares

Dr. Kimberly Massenburg, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House

Paulo Pinto, MPA, Massachusetts Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
Sunny Schwartz, Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation
Cassie Hurd, Material Aid and Advocacy Program
Shelley Neill, Multicultural Arts Center
Elizabeth Aguilo, Paine Senior Services
Eve Sullivan, Parents Forum
Ronnie Millar, Rian Immigrant Center
Bonnie Bertolaet, Science Club for Girls
Andrea Shapiro, Second Chances, Inc.
Paul Hollings, Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
Jyoti Sinha, South Asian Workers' Center
Peter DiMuro, The Dance Complex
Kate Layzer, The Friday Café at First Church in Cambridge
Christopher Hope, The Loop Lab
Joan Squeri, Vice President, The Union Partnership for A Whole Community
Sarah Gyorog, Transition House
Elaine Ng, TSNE / Link
Kathryn Fenneman, Tutoring Plus of Cambridge, Inc
Bruce Bird, Vinfen
Martha Hinkley, Violeta Montessori School
Eva Martin Blythe, YWCA Cambridge