

Creative New Jersey's Statewide Conversations – COVID-19 Response

Call #1 – April 1, 2020

Editor's note: This summary covers the general topics and resources shared during the first call in a [series of statewide conversations](#) hosted by Creative New Jersey to bring together our statewide network to help people across our state keep connected, share information, and unite in solidarity as we navigate the Coronavirus response in New Jersey.

To register for Creative New Jersey's Statewide Conversations on COVID-19 Response, click the following link: <https://forms.gle/jkW4waMXoeZUZcXeA>. Calls take place every Wednesday in April 2020 (April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29) at 10am.

SUMMARY

Guest speaker: Linda Czipo, Executive Director – Center for Non-Profits
<https://www.njnonprofits.org/>

Czipo shared the results from the Center for Non-Profits first rapid response survey, completed by 700 nonprofits in NJ, which showed immediate and widespread disruption and impacts in programming and operations.

- Two thirds of respondents said that they have staff who are unable to work remotely.
- Over 90% of respondents said they have had to cancel or postpone programming.
- Concerns over lay-offs or furloughs are high.
- Immediate needs include additional funding, flexibility from funders with grant requirements, and professional assistance (legal, technology, finance, etc.).

Czipo also shared what was known about the recently passed CARES Act:

- Advocacy is still needed with state and federal representatives as there are more phases of the CARES Act to be approved and implemented.
- Rules and regulations are still in development at this stage, so information is often changing hourly.
- Advice included ensuring you understand eligibility requirements for each funding source coming out of the CARES Act as applying for and receiving funds from one source may make you ineligible for another fund.
- Email the Center for Non-Profits with questions, ideas, what future phases of the CARES Act should include. The Center also has webinar briefings to delve deeper into the details as they emerge – visit their website for more information.

Center for Non-Profits COVID-19 Resource page: <https://www.njnonprofits.org/COVID-19.html>

- includes funding sources, workplace operational resources, Individual assistance, webinars and general health recommendations to mitigate spread
- CFNP Email Sign-up Form: <http://www.njnonprofits.org/EmailSignup.html>

Resources shared by speakers and participants during the call include:

- State & National Resources
- Funding Sources
- Communications and Staying Connected (phone tree model for serving people with limited or no access to technology)
- Mental and Emotional Health (counseling services, emotional wellbeing webinars)
- Technology (tech discounts, and free subscription up to 3 months)

RESOURCES

State & National Resources:

- covid19.nj.gov - Connect with the State of NJ at the COVID-19 Hub Page for the latest updates, links to resources for nonprofits, small businesses, individuals
- <http://njnonprofits.org/> - Resources and relief funds at the state and federal level.
- New Jersey Organizing Project resource page: <https://covidnj.com>
- National Council of Nonprofits: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofits-and-coronavirus-covid-19>

Funding sources:

- Small Business Administration (SBA) Coronavirus Relief Options: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>
 - Includes info on Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance program (EIDL), SBA Express Bridge Loans & SBA Debt Relief
 - EIDL -- organizations can get **up to \$10,000 in three days with no repayment**
 - SBA Small Business Guidance & Loan resources: <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- NJCC Garden State Relief Fund (will be discussed on April 8th call in greater detail): <https://www.newjerseycommunitycapital.org/initiatives/garden-state-relief-fund>
- See the Center for Non-Profit website for a comprehensive list of relief funds: <https://www.njnonprofits.org/COVID-19.html>

Communications & Staying Connected resources:

- 'Rona Call: Free Press is advocating a phone tree model on how to communicate with people who don't have the technology available – Spanish & English webpages available: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14ML7LBwgbyNwetUv7bswpHQp-MrnrxvH/view?usp=sharing>
- Virtual Story Circle - Bringing people together to talk about resilient times in their lives to activate resiliency, activate how community is part of the solution here: bit.ly/acstorycircle
- NJ.com is creating a webpage of all businesses that are open in NJ - You can add yourself into the database to get the word out that you are open. nj.com/open
 - NJ.com also has #TogetherNJ - inspiring stories of New Jersey coming together in the face of the crisis. <https://www.nj.com/togethernj>

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- Rahway taxi service is offering their services to go and pick up groceries or run errands.

Mental and Emotional Health Resources:

- NJ Mental Health Cares, the state's behavioral health information and referral service, will now also offer help to people dealing with anxiety and worry related to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. New Jerseyans can call 1-866-202-HELP (4357) for free, confidential support. NJ Mental Health Cares will be answered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week by live trained specialists.
- Highlander Center for Education and Research is providing Mutual Aid calls:
<https://www.facebook.com/highlandercenter/>
- Nonprofit POC Collective from the Institute for Ethical Leadership, Rutgers University: Virtual session with Licensed Clinical Social Worker Joi Britt.
- <https://covidnj.com/stress-mental-health-resources>
- <https://collective.healingsolidarity.org/>
- Community Chat: Normal Feelings for Abnormal Times Thu, April 2, 2020 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM EDT Online For more info and to register, go to: <https://nppoccollective-normalfeelings.eventbrite.com>

Technology resources:

- GO TO Meeting is offering 3-month free subscription for nonprofits (contact Center for Non-Profits for more details)
- Center for Non-Profits will give center members a 20% discount for ZOOM
- www.TechSoup.org - tech resources and subscriptions available

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