

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate

Dear Speaker McCarthy, Leader Jeffries, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell,

On behalf of charitable nonprofits across the country, **we urge you to pass bipartisan, bicameral appropriations bills that support resources for individuals, families, and communities. If appropriation measures cannot be passed by the end of the fiscal year, we encourage you to pass a continuing resolution and avert a government shutdown, offering time to complete the budget before the end of 2023.**

Charitable nonprofits represent the nation's third largest employment sector, with more than 12 million employees who are at the forefront of helping Americans through difficult times. These charities provide everything from food and shelter to medical and mental health services to education and cultural and spiritual support. Yet, at a time when Americans need these services the most, donations and other earned revenue sources continue to decline as demand for many services continues to grow. Americans turn to charitable nonprofits for a variety of reasons, whether they are recovering from a natural disaster, seeking meals for their families, re-skilling for a changing workforce, seeking educational supports for their children, or a myriad of other reasons.

We know from experience that the real-world consequences of a federal government shutdown would be catastrophic for the populations our organizations serve and that you represent. Government programs would come to a halt, and as is often the case, individuals in crisis would turn to our organizations in even greater numbers. Further, payments and renewals for government grants and contracts would cease, causing untold disruptions of programs and threatening the organizations upon which so many rely.

As you work to keep your communities healthy, safe, and secure, we once again urge you to avert a government shutdown and pass a bipartisan, bicameral appropriations bill that adequately funds key programs that impact the lives of Americans.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Afterschool Alliance
American Alliance of Museums

American Heart Association
American Lung Association

Association of Art Museum Directors
Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
Boys & Girls Clubs of America
Council on Foundations
Covenant House International
Dance/USA
Family Focused Treatment Association
Futures Without Violence
Girl Scouts of the USA
Girlstart
Goodwill Industries International, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity International
Independent Sector
League of American Orchestras
Lutheran Services in America
Meals on Wheels America
Mental Health America

MENTOR
National Afterschool Association
National Community Action Partnership
National Council of Nonprofits
National Health Council
OPERA America
Save the Children
Social Current
Starr Commonwealth
The Nonprofit Alliance
Theatre Communications Group
United Philanthropy Forum
United Way Worldwide
Volunteers of America
YMCA of the USA
YWCA USA