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# COVID-19 SURVEY REPORT

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PREPARED FOR

The Dyson Foundation and other Mid-Hudson Valley Funders

April 2020



THE CENTER FOR  
EFFECTIVE PHILANTHROPY

675 Massachusetts Avenue  
7th Floor  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617-492-0800

131 Steuart Street  
Suite 501  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-391-3070

[cep.org](http://cep.org)

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## Survey Background & Method

A group of Mid-Hudson Valley Funders including the Dyson Foundation, Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley, Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan, United Way of the Dutchess Orange Region, and United Way of Ulster County engaged the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP) to conduct a rapid survey of its partners to get their input and advice regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their organizations.

Survey	Survey Fielded	Survey Population	Number of Responses Received	Survey Response Rate
The Funders 2020	Apr-20	570	215	38%

Foundation	Survey Population	Number of Responses Received	Response Rate
Dyson Foundation	130	77	59%
Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley	389	163	42%
Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan	57	28	49%
United Way of the Dutchess Orange Region	179	54	30%
United Way of Ulster County	14	8	57%

## Impact of COVID-19 on Nonprofits

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has your organization experienced – or is it experiencing – any of the following:

Experienced:	Yes, this has or is happening	No, but I expect this to happen	No, and I don't expect this to happen	Don't know/ N/A
Moved to a virtual working environment at one or more location(s) or facility(ies)	82%	2%	14%	2%
Shifted staff from other services or projects to COVID-19 management efforts	57%	7%	30%	7%
Halted or delayed some services or projects	92%	4%	4%	0%
Added new services or projects to focus on a COVID-19 response	60%	16%	21%	4%
Reduced staff levels (e.g., conducted layoffs)	38%	17%	38%	7%
Re-allocated funding from existing services or projects to focus on a COVID-19 response	33%	22%	35%	10%
Tapped into reserves (e.g., rainy day fund, board designated reserves, etc.)	42%	35%	15%	8%
Experienced an increase in the demand for your programs and services	45%	15%	32%	9%
Experienced a decrease in demand for your programs and services	45%	9%	38%	8%
Experienced a decrease in earned revenue (e.g., fee for service, contracts, etc.)	72%	10%	7%	11%
Experienced a decrease in contributed revenue (e.g., foundation grants, individual donations, etc.)	58%	24%	11%	8%
Experienced reduced capacity (e.g., staff or volunteer absences)	68%	14%	15%	3%

Please estimate the number of months you could continue operating with existing revenue streams without severe disruption to your operating model and ability to deliver your programs in the future (such as layoffs or closing):



Cohort: None Past results: on

## Funders' Responses to COVID-19

### What are your other funders doing to support your organization's efforts to respond to the impact of COVID-19?

Experienced the following forms of supports:	Yes	No
Converting restricted grant to unrestricted funding	20%	80%
Accelerating payment schedules on grants	14%	86%
Increasing size of current grants	7%	93%
Providing supplemental grants	28%	72%
Extending the timeframe of current grant(s) without penalty	38%	62%
Allowing goals of current grant(s) to shift	49%	51%
Waiving or making reporting deadlines flexible	52%	48%
Communicating one-on-one with you about the effect of COVID-19 on your organization	50%	50%
Providing helpful information about their responses to COVID-19	61%	39%
Other (please describe):	61%	39%

Below are verbatim responses from grantees who selected "Other (please describe):" in the previous question:

Grantee Comment
Applying for PPP
Allowing orgs to provide direct cash assistance to individuals in need
As I have been furloughed as the executive director, I am uncertain as to how grant information is being maintained.
Assuring honoring our contract even if deliverables cannot be met.
being in touch and checking in.
Collecting information for now, action TBD
Helping organizations to apply for additional funding and providing important information regarding layoff procedures, sick leave benefits related to COVID 19, and other finance and hr matters impacted by the pandemic.
Flexibility: it is an option for grantees to request changes to terms of original contracts on a case-by-case basis which is individually assessed.
haven't asked for changes in grant uses, but have received some additional grants for food and other needs
It is hard to answer yes or no to these questions as some foundations are doing some things and others are not
It's hard to answer these questions, because one grantor has really bent over backwards to help, while we have not heard much from others, and have been waiting to contact them until we had a better sense of how our programs were changing and how the changes were going to work out.
One grant program is on hold in order to redirect attention to COVID needs, so the grant we were counting on is not available for the time being, and perhaps won't be at all
One sent us an application for the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program
Our funds come from our members many of whom are financially effected by COVID-19. We are paying our payroll. Our staffing level may need to change next year.
Our programs are funded by fees paid by the athletes. If we cannot run our program, we do not have funds
Private donors have been more generous

Providing support for SBA loans

Relaxing some requirements to access funds

Shrinking annual contributions because of the market's impact on Foundation funds

The federal grant is on time and being flexible will offer additional funding. The NYS grant reimbursement is late due to furloughed employees not having the tolls to process files and work at home

Too early to describe.

Volunteer recruitment help

We are funded by generous businesses and people primarily. We are not funded by more than one grant at this time. We are open to them but have not primarily obtained our funding through grants.

We are unclear whether existing state contracts will pay staff time which could not be used effectively to do the proposed work from home.

We don't receive any funding from any organization other than client tuition. OCFS has been very helpful in providing information

We don't receive much grant funding

We have lost potential funding as organizations support COVID response

We haven't received any significant grants yet. We expect we have to have graduated dogs to win major grants. The few small ones we've received (\$1,000), don't require any reporting.

We haven't received any information regarding our funding yet. All seems uncertain especially going into 2021. It could be that all is well. We don't know. We are beginning to reach out now to some of our funding sources regarding this issue.

We would like to underscore that only a couple of our funders (2 or 3 out of 50+ institutional funders) are implementing the shifts described above.

Working to develop new emergency funds

## **About CEP and Contact Information**

### **Mission:**

To provide data and create insight so philanthropic funders can better define, assess, and improve their effectiveness – and, as a result, their intended impact.

### **Vision:**

We seek a world in which pressing social needs are more effectively addressed.

We believe improved performance of philanthropic funders can have a profoundly positive impact on nonprofit organizations and the people and communities they serve.

Although our work is about measuring results, providing useful data, and improving performance, our ultimate goal is improving lives. We believe this can only be achieved through a powerful combination of dispassionate analysis and passionate commitment to creating a better society.

# Contact Information

## Contact Information

Sonia Montoya, Manager - Assessment and Advisory Services  
(617) 492-0800 ext. 243  
soniam@cep.org



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