



March 11, 2021

Members of the California State Legislature:

The Inland Empire charitable nonprofit community (nonprofits) appreciates your leadership during these uncertain times. Our nonprofits are delivering critical services and supplies to the region of nearly 5 million residents. Unfortunately, the last round of CARES Act funding limited the breadth and capacity of these services, limiting our innovation and action during this crucial time.

As you work on funding parameters for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, we respectfully urge you to ensure that nonprofits are supported on the front lines by intentionally including nonprofits as partners in the dissemination of funds and services. Such inclusion would allow nonprofits to work collaboratively with local governments in the continued response to the COVID-19 crisis as they cannot continue to withstand the fiscal impacts of this responsibility alone. We believe the evidence during the pandemic shows that nonprofits could better contribute to the economic recovery of residents and businesses in the region if given the opportunity. Specifically, we ask that the State Legislature:

- Consider nonprofits as important community subcontractors to receive and distribute American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds;
- As trusted messengers, provide flexible resources to the nonprofit sector that allow us to work collaboratively and strategically on local priorities that include childcare, youth programming, digital infrastructure, housing, elderly services, and arts and culture;
- Invest in organizations and projects that are committed to working on equity and inclusion, with the goal of fundamentally building back better and improving access to opportunity.

We hope that nonprofits can count on your continued leadership and support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julian Cuevas, Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs at the Inland Empire Community Foundation at [jcuevas@iegives.org](mailto:jcuevas@iegives.org).

Respectfully,

**Beth Burt**  
Executive Director, Autism Society Inland Empire  
President, Autism Society of California

**Maribel Nunez**  
Executive Director  
Inland Equity Partnership

**Drew Oberjuege**  
Executive Director  
Riverside Art Museum

**R. Michelle Decker**  
President & CEO  
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**Damien O'Farrell,**  
President and CEO  
Parkview Legacy Foundation

**Cory A. Jackson, MSW**  
Chairman & CEO  
SBX Youth and Family Services

**Michael Gomez Daily**  
Executive Director  
IE United

**Diana Fox**  
Executive Director  
Reach Out