

## The Impact of COVID-19 on New York Nonprofits

From March 16 - April 24, 2020, [Nonprofit New York](#) conducted a brief survey to gauge how nonprofits in the New York City area were being impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. We received 158 responses.

Analysis done by Celine Yip, Research & Data Coordinator.

The survey asked the following questions:

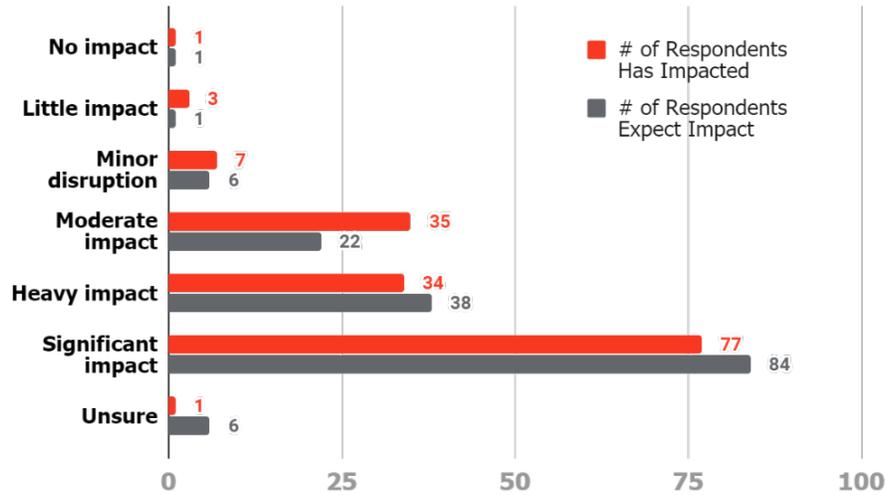
1. To what extent has the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) hindered your organization's ability to carry out its mission?
2. To what extent will the spread of COVID-19 hinder your organization's ability to carry out its mission?
3. If there has been an impact, how has it affected your programming, operations, services, or general operations?
  - a. If there has been an impact not listed in the previous question, please describe it below:
4. How has this impacted your revenue and expenses? When possible, please specify numbers and percentages.
5. What sort of guidance and/or resources do you need during this time?

### Key Findings

- 70% (111) of respondents have been heavily to significantly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and 77% (122) expect heavy to significant impact.
- 85% (135) respondents have had to cancel programs and/or events.
- 70% (111) respondents have experienced a reduced inflow of revenue.
- 64% (102) respondents report a disruption of services to clients and communities.
- Several nonprofits reported needing logistical assistance with technology, managing interrupted deliveries, and increased spending for items such as cleaning supplies.

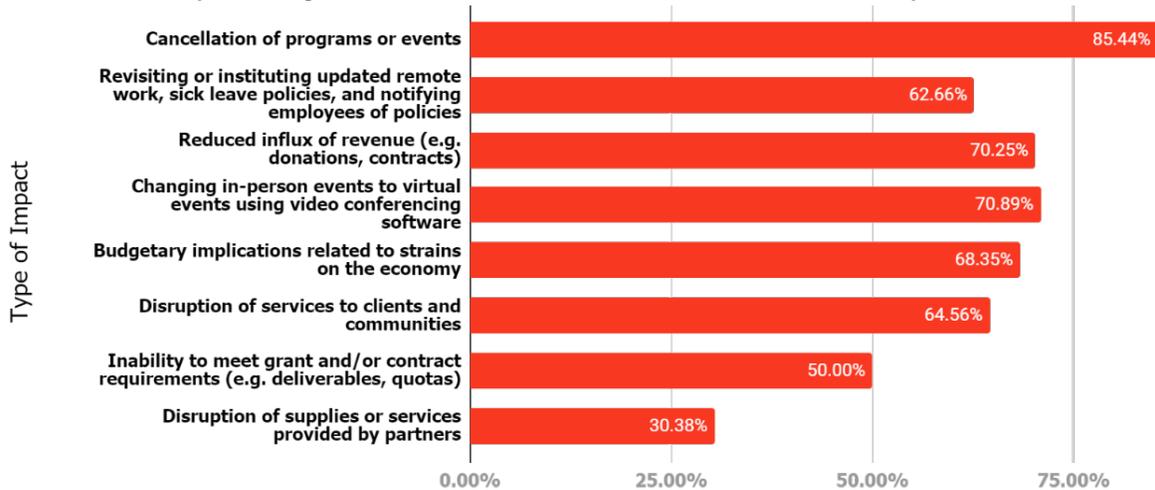
## How Nonprofits Have Been Affected

### Severity of impact on nonprofits' ability to carry out mission



The vast majority of nonprofits surveyed either had expected or already experienced some impact due to COVID-19. 70% (111) of respondents had been heavily to significantly impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak and 77% (122) expected heavy to significant impact.

### Top 8 Ways COVID-19 outbreak has affected nonprofits



Funding sources of all kinds were impacted by the outbreak: 85% (135) of respondents had to cancel programs and/or events, which included fundraisers to both showcase the nonprofit's work and bring in new revenue.

And anecdotally, many nonprofits described how social distancing affected their work. Arts & Culture nonprofits had to shut down classes and shows; organizations providing direct services either could not shift their services online or found it disruptive.

On top of that, contracted organizations reported feeling intense worry about whether or not contracts would be flexible because many nonprofits had to cease providing services in order to comply with social distancing requirements.

## What Nonprofits Need

By and large nonprofits reported needing financial help. Of those that responded to the question on what kind of guidance and/or resources they need at this time (100 respondents), 86% reported needing:

- Financial assistance (54%)
- Grant flexibility or assurances that the grant would be honored (12%)
- Fundraising support (9%)
- Loan guidance, especially as some nonprofits have no line of credit (11%)

Several nonprofits had either already laid-off, furloughed, or cut hours for staff and many linked their need for monetary support to their desire to retain their employees.

In addition, many nonprofits reported needing logistical assistance with technology, managing interrupted deliveries, and increased spending for items such as cleaning supplies.

## Actions Taken

Nonprofit New York continues to advocate on the sector's behalf and this has included (but not exclusive to):

- [Open Letter to Government Partners from NYC's Nonprofits](#)
- [Letter to New York's Congressional Delegation on Behalf of New York's Nonprofits](#)
- [Letter to City Council on Behalf of New York's Nonprofits](#)
- Creation of [new training series](#) to address the needs and questions we were hearing and to help organizations navigate the pandemic
- Created a [resource page for COVID-19](#)
- Curated a [list of funding and other resources](#)
- Implemented almost daily Policy Roundups to keep nonprofits informed of policy news and other advocacy updates

## Next Steps

Nonprofit New York is committed to ongoing advocacy to protect and support our area's nonprofit community during the pandemic and beyond. As part of an effort to measure the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and to identify concrete ways we can champion our sector, we have created a second survey, which nonprofits can respond to [here](#).

## About Nonprofit New York

Nonprofit New York's mission is to strengthen and unite New York's nonprofits. We're building a thriving community of extraordinary nonprofits - a relentless, collective force for good.

Serving over 2,700 nonprofits in the New York City area each year, we've been building a powerful nonprofit community in New York for more than 35 years. We believe that when one nonprofit is stronger, all of us are stronger. Together, we're changing New York - and the world.

Have questions on this report? Contact Nonprofit New York's Research & Data Coordinator, Celine Yip at [cyip@nonprofitnewyork.org](mailto:cyip@nonprofitnewyork.org).

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