

COVID-19 | N = 85

Grantee Survey Results

ABOUT THIS INQUIRY

On March 13, 2020 the Walter and Elise Haas Fund anonymously surveyed current grantees in its Arts, Economic Security, Education, Jewish Life, Safety Net and Disaster Preparedness & Response portfolios about the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on their work.

As of March 18, 2020, 85 individuals had responded, providing direct answers to 10 survey questions (included at the end of this summary), and over 500 comments.

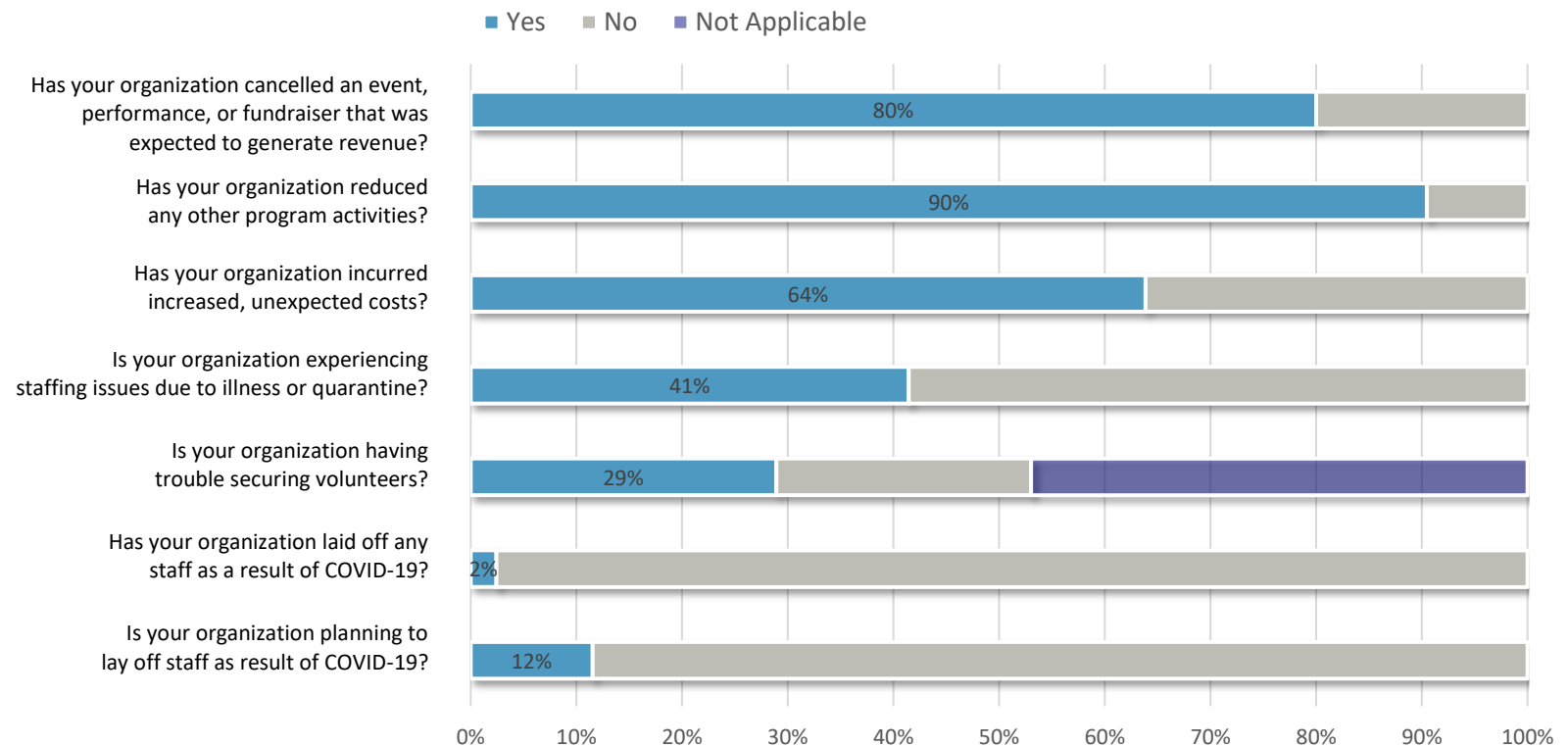
Survey respondents identified themselves in the following issue areas.

Arts	30.38%
Disaster Preparedness	2.53%
Economic Security	12.66%
Education	12.66%
Jewish Life	16.46%
Safety Net	25.32%

The following pages present high-level results, excluding data from one question “Is there anything else you want the Fund to know about how COVID-19 is affecting your organization?” The Fund received 64 specific, project-related responses that we’re following up on directly. We encourage all grantmakers to ask this question of their grantees.

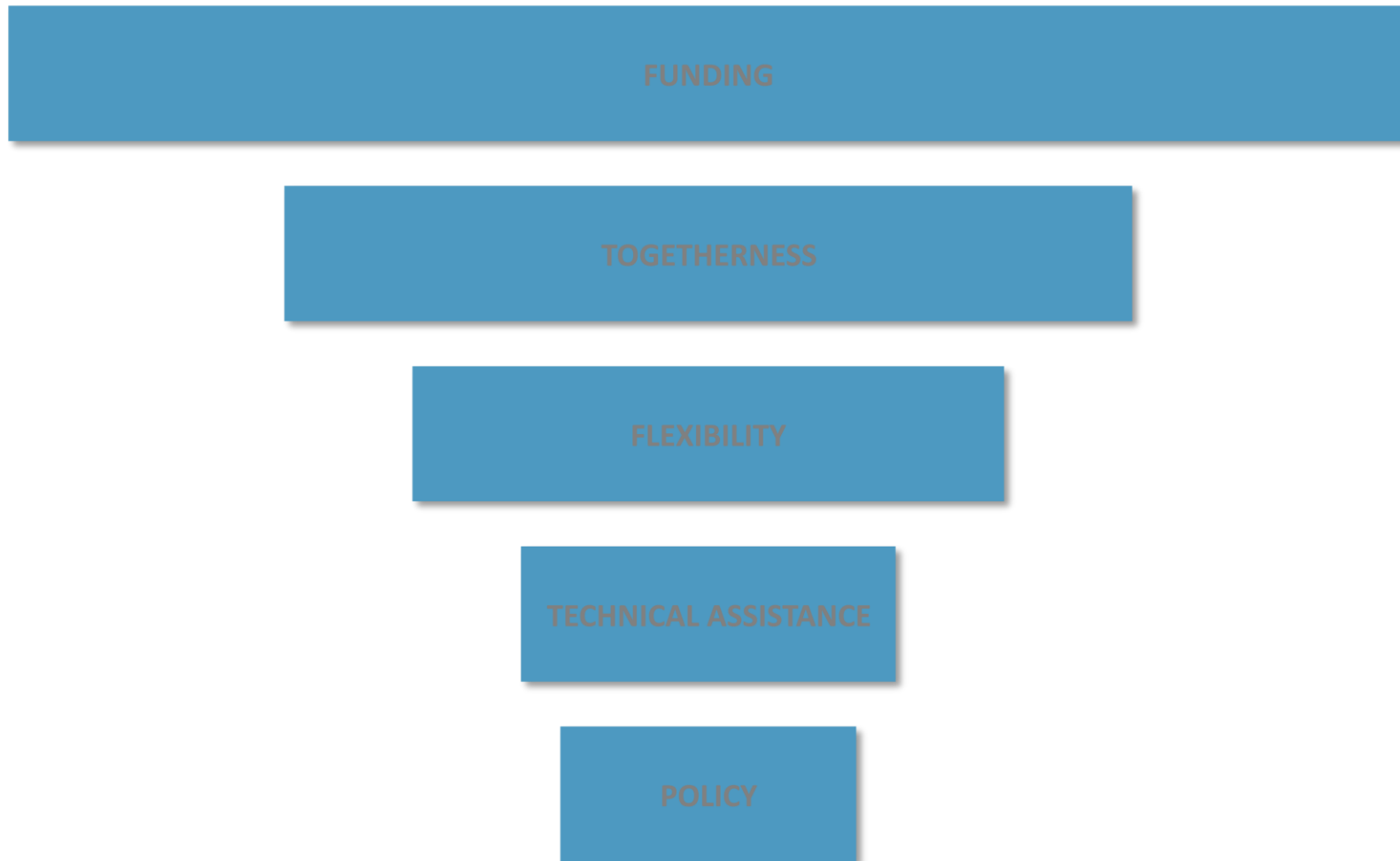
RESULTS | N = 85

Seven Yes/No Questions



RESULTS | N = 74

What are three things the Fund should be doing for its grantees?



FUNDING

As organizations scramble to keep their programs operating and staff employed under extremely challenging circumstances, they need emergency unrestricted or general operating support. Where that's not possible, the early release of already awarded grant payments will help keep these organizations solvent as they adjust.

TOGETHERNESS

Non-profits reported they need help sharing best practices and space where they can learn from and support each other. They need frameworks, resources, connections, and advocacy from the Philanthropic community. This togetherness will help those who are overwhelmed—practically and emotionally—by the vastly increased needs they are asked to help meet.

FLEXIBILITY

Non-profits emphasized the need for flexibility from their funding partners. At a time when schools, stores, and national borders are closed, insisting that dance class, or tax filing assistance, or evaluation activities go on as planned is not fully recognizing the gravity of this moment. Flexibility looks like: amending grants to include report extensions, duration extensions, report cancellations, and shifts from project support to general operating support.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The quick transition to remote work and virtual delivery of services and programming means a vastly increased need for technical assistance. Therefore, non-profits need IT support and access to free software that facilitates their shift to operating as close to normal while offices and classrooms are closed.

POLICY

The non-profit sector, including its workers, stands to benefit from the aid packages being discussed by state and local governments. To the extent possible, the non-profit community calls on its philanthropic partners to support these measures.

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Survey Protocol

1. Has your organization cancelled an event, performance, or fundraiser that was expected to generate revenue?
2. Has your organization reduced any other program activities?
3. Has your organization incurred increased, unexpected costs?
4. Is your organization experiencing staffing issues due to illness or quarantine?
5. Is your organization having trouble securing volunteers?
6. Has your organization laid off any staff as a result of COVID-19?
7. Is your organization planning to lay off staff as a result of COVID-19?
8. Is there anything else you want the Fund to know about how COVID-19 is affecting your organization?
9. What are three things the Fund should be doing in support of its grantees?
10. Which of the following issue areas best represents your organization's work?