

## COVID RELIEF/RECOVERY TALKERS FOR VENUES

### **THE ISSUE:**

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were the first to close, and we will be among the last to reopen our doors. Our facility will likely lose \$XXX in revenue from cancelled events for 2020. In addition, our community will lose out on a projected \$XXX of economic impact. In order to reopen, we will incur significant additional costs for COVID-19 mitigation to keep our guests and employees safe.

### **WHAT WE NEED:**

As Congress considers COVID-19 related relief and recovery legislation, our venues need the following assistance to help us survive this crisis and get back up and running as quickly and safely as possible, once the crisis has passed:

#### **Increase the Funding, Extend and Expand the CARES Act's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):**

- Increase PPP funding and extend the program beyond the initial eight weeks.
- Expand eligibility to ensure that not for profits, including 501(c)6's, as well as public assembly venues, that were created by state and local governments, can receive PPP assistance. These facilities function on their own and mainly depend on event revenue to fund their operating budgets. Also, they won't receive state and federal assistance through the Coronavirus Relief Fund because state and local governments are using this money for "core services" – public safety, education and health care.

#### **Expand Eligibility Rules for Main Street Lending Program:**

- Many venues are ineligible to apply for the Department of Treasury's Main Street Lending Program because they are not for -profits.

#### **Provide Guidelines and Liability Protections for Public Assembly Venues.**

- When our community is ready to re-open for public gatherings, our venues will need clear federal guidelines that we can follow – and financial help to pay for the additional PPE, cleaning measures, touchless entry and concessions and facility air system retrogrades that will be needed.
- For those of us who comply with these guidelines, we need protection from COVID-related lawsuits.

#### **Establish a Targeted Business Recovery Relief Fund:**

- We have been devastated by the sudden, total interruption to our operations. The cancelled shows, concerts and conventions, and the revenues tied to them, can never be replaced. Insurance won't cover these losses.
- Our venues need a long-term Business Recovery Fund, modeled on the 9-11 Victims

Fund, to help us get back up and running, once the economy restarts.