



Florida Prosperity Partnership

"Elevating Financial Capability for All"

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April 15, 2020

Governor Ron DeSantis
Office of the Governor
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor DeSantis,

Florida Prosperity Partnership (FPP) would like to thank you for the work you are doing to protect Floridians during this trying time. FPP would like to offer its assistance as you help to lead the economy out of the deep economic downturn realized by COVID-19 and the resulting shutdowns.

FPP, borne of the early days of the Great Recession, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit coalition of 2700+ partners and members in and beyond Florida who primarily serve low- and moderate-income individuals and households. The coalition is comprised of Florida-based, domestic and international organizations and practitioners representing non-profits, financial institutions, academia, government agencies, for-profit enterprises and more, all committed to generating a collective impact. Through coalition engagement, FPP's Financial Capability practitioners build knowledge, skill and understanding to elevate people and communities from Financial Crisis to Stability, Security, Well-Being and Prosperity.

These Financial Capability Practitioners are working with Floridians to help them with a hand-up versus a hand-out!

FPP will be supporting struggling Floridians and is in place to reinvigorate the economy, meeting the needs of today and going beyond the challenges of tomorrow. This should have been one of the best economic seasons on record. However, we will now be working with the possibility of record numbers of Floridians needing to be reintegrated into the workforce, needing career counseling, needing credit counseling, needing financial education/counseling, needing safe small-dollar loans, needing free income tax preparation, needing micro/small business support, and much more related to their personal finances.

Being small-government-minded, we know that you understand the importance of nonprofits providing essential services.

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Nonprofits do trust that State agencies will maintain their payments to these agencies that have current grants and contracts and allow for adjustments in these contracts and/or grants to be adjusted to fit these unfortunate times. This will be a tough time for nonprofits as the cancellation of fundraising events and contraction of business will certainly close some. However, Financial Capability Practitioners have found ways for the nonprofits they serve to fulfill what they have promised their communities that they would do, just in a different way.

One great example from an FPP Partner is Branches (branchesfl.org) in South Florida. They are still open and serving! Branches Financial Wellness team has replaced their one-on-one Financial Coaching, Micro-Business support, and Free Tax Prep Services with a virtual coaching model through phone and video conferencing. As of March 20, 2020, their Virtual Coaching model is available to all of their participants. At each virtual appointment they assess needs for employment, provide scripts to call lenders and banks, and give access to a database of resources for up-to-date information on schools, food and groceries, utilities, jobs, COVID-19 testing, and more. Branches is using a variety of video platforms including Zoom, Skype, RingCentral, Microsoft Teams, Whatsapp, Google Voice/Duos depending on the needs and accessibility of each participant.

FPP is here to raise up examples like this. FPP is ready to take on the economic crisis with innovative practices!

The organization is known by those in the Financial Capability profession for bringing new and/or trusted ideas to the forefront in Florida. FPP is known nationally and internationally, bringing initiatives created by the organization to places as far away as Brooklyn and Seattle. In fact, FPP has helped a group of social workers and academia to create their own partnership, based on the FPP model, in South Korea. Truly bringing American ideas and ideals across the world.

As a military man, I am sure that you can understand the importance of having a standing force of practitioners and volunteers ready to serve. FPP is that standing force for Florida's economy. FPP desires to help rebuild the economy. FPP wants to help Floridians move beyond the economic crisis and back to stability and security, and hopefully to prosperity. You have showed Floridians that you listen to them. Now it is the coalition of over 2,700 practitioners' turn to listen to you. What can FPP do for you and Floridians across this great state?

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Respectfully,

Bill Mills
President & CEO
Bill@FloridaProsperityPartnership.org