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## **ARISE DETROIT! SURVEY SHOWS NON-PROFIT GROUPS FACING FUNDING AND VOLUNTEER CHALLENGES DUE TO COVID-19 CRISIS**

*Detroit* – More than 60 percent of Detroit block clubs and community groups say they are facing financial challenges and 80 percent of them have had their volunteer efforts disrupted by the COVID-19 health crisis, according to respondents to an ARISE Detroit! survey.

More than 50 groups responded to the online survey, taken over the past four weeks.

“It demonstrates that many of us are struggling to adapt to the new environment, or new reality, and are being forced to innovate and be creative to survive and continue to serve the community,” said Luther Keith, ARISE Detroit! executive director. “However, what is also clear from the survey is that these groups are still committed to making a difference and improving the quality of life in Detroit neighborhoods.”

Survey respondents, drawn from the ARISE Detroit! network of more than 400 community organizations, included art, cultural, youth, mentoring and tutoring programs.

“The survey, we believe, is a fair reflection of the challenges facing Detroit’s Transformation Community, meaning the hundreds of groups working for positive community change,” Keith said. “Hopefully, as we move forward, this important work will continue, even if groups must transform themselves to continue to serve.”

The survey found:

- **MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION:** 64 percent said it has been “somewhat difficult” to maintain communications with their support networks during the health crisis; 34 percent said it was “very difficult.”
- **MAINTAINING VOLUNTEER SUPPORT:** 85 percent said their volunteer efforts have been disrupted by COVID-19.
- **FINANCIAL CHALLENGES:** 62 percent said they were facing financial challenges because traditional funders are either not able to fund them or are directing their efforts toward dealing with the health crisis with other kinds of support to other groups or causes related to coronavirus.

- **FUNDING STRATEGIES:** In dealing with their financial challenges, 52 percent said they have increased their marketing and outreach to funders; 37 percent said they have approached new funders and another 37 percent said they have asked for increased financial support from members and board members.
- **FUTURE OF ORGANIZATIONS:** Over 50 percent indicated their organizations will be changed in some permanent or fundamental way because of the crisis. Responding to that issue, survey comments from organizations included:

*“Yes, I am worried that all the positive stabilizing factors of our community will be diminished — or worse — eliminated and we will start at square one. Dedicated community advocates are tired. We were just starting to see success and home value improvement. Now, we feel more stress at possible foreclosure and/or more rental rather than home ownership. Factor of home maintenance and jobs and education all go hand-in-hand with healthy and clean communities. High risk concerns.”*

*“Yes. We are a social interactive organization. Members go into residents’ homes, attend block club meetings, community events both indoors and outdoors. Our volunteers leave supplies on porches or refer home deliveries to other organizations, use virtual meeting platforms. Hold tech training to get residents on how to log in and connect.”*

*“It’s possible. Because our organization is mostly comprised of seniors, who are at highest risk for COVID-19, it is unlikely that we will engage in face-to-face meetings in the foreseeable future. We hope to resume in September. In the meantime, we are providing information electronically, and we are considering when to begin publishing and distributing our monthly newsletter. Maybe this month. Still undetermined.”*

*“Yes, our organization specializes in large scale outdoor art events, so we don’t know when we will be able to do our events again or if we will do them again in the same way because of social distancing needs.”*

*“Unless a vaccine is developed, I doubt that we will be returning to our traditional model of in-person tutoring in the next 12 months. Instead, we will have to continue developing an online model.”*

*“Since city ordinances require that a minimum of two people are required to patrol, for reasons of safety, depending on the social distancing mandate, our radio patrol may be subject to some changes.”*

*“I think the organization will be changed for the better. Offering online meetings and be cognizant of acts to decrease the spread of germs and develop more programs to increase the health of our community as a whole.”*

### **About ARISE Detroit!**

ARISE Detroit! is a 15-year-old nonprofit organization promoting volunteerism, community activism and positive media images to create a better Detroit. For more information, visit [www.arisedetroit.org](http://www.arisedetroit.org).