



# How to invest your stimulus funding

A guide for Community  
Action Agencies and Head  
Start Programs

The CARES Act has released \$1.75 billion in stimulus funds for Community Action Agencies and Head Start programs, and more could be released in the future. There is still time to consider how you can invest in your agency — both infrastructure and direct services — to continue to help serve your community.

## Increase your strength to increase your impact

Designed to address the increased demand for human services in response to COVID-19, CARES Act funds can be put toward a variety of activities. Your organization can — and likely should — use your funds to maintain, resume or modify your operation of programs, while also investing in your technology infrastructure to create a more stable and sustainable organization.

You have a big opportunity to address your broader needs, improve your quality of services and increase your capacity to deliver.

Let the Wipfli team help you strategically evaluate your operations and prioritize current and future spending so you can turn these opportunities into action. The following are five significant areas where we have seen funding investments impact organizations.

### 1. Build and manage talent remotely

Recruiting, developing and managing staff remotely can be different than doing so in-person, but the pandemic has made it a necessity. So how do you continue to effectively manage your employees while working remotely?

Behavioral assessment tools like the Predictive Index® (PI) can help managers understand what drives your employees and what their natural tendencies and behaviors in the workplace are. Usually, that information informs hiring decisions, training and goal setting. In times of crisis or sudden change, it also helps leaders connect with their employees and manage teams more effectively.

As a Certified Partner of PI, Wipfli helps you successfully manage, inspire and engage remote workers and in-office teams. Plus, if you're struggling with the capacity to hire, onboard and train new employees, we can help you use PI to evaluate potential hires and ensure the right fit.

## 2. Align your services with current needs

During the COVID-19 pandemic, being able to quickly pivot to meet your community's changing needs is critical. Updated community assessments are identifying new and emerging community needs, but your processes and technology systems may not be built to support the rapid change required. Wipfli uses technology tools to meet and manage your emerging service demands — allowing you to serve your clients while keeping adequate oversight of program activities.

## 3. Simplify operations

Does your financial system support remote work and paperless workflows, but you're still finding yourself challenged to produce timely financial reports, process AP and automate other workflows? Are you worried about compliance, segregation of duties and documentation?

Simplify your finance and accounting processes with a modern financial system that improves processes and productivity, reduces operational costs, and gives you and your leadership team real-time access to financial information.

Wipfli brings deep experience with Community Action and Head Start organizations, as well as extensive knowledge of the OMB Uniform Guidance. We can work with your agency to design a financial system and adjust processes to comply with federal regulations while also maximizing efficiency. Implementing a new system without making corresponding changes in your processes won't yield results, so our approach is to assess your desired state of fiscal operations and use financial software, such as Sage Intacct, to help deliver on these improved workflows.

## 4. Gain on-going support

Many nonprofits can benefit from an on-demand resource to help them effectively address COVID-19-related legislation.

The My Wipfli Membership Service provides you with auditors and consultants who help you understand new and changing regulations, work through your challenges and answer your questions. We provide value-added materials such as policy and procedure templates for remote workers, RFI templates and other documentation samples.

## 5. Invest in your technology infrastructure

When investing in your technology infrastructure, there are three courses of action you can take:

**Technology health check:** Organizations want to be strategic in adopting and deploying technology, but without a solid plan, it's easy to find yourself prioritizing short-term needs over long-term business goals. Wipfli's technology health check audits your technology systems and creates a multi-year IT roadmap for investing in the future.

**Cybersecurity:** To help you proactively address threats and effectively respond to them, we provide a full range of cybersecurity services, from managed detection and response, to penetration testing and vulnerability assessments, to training and awareness.

**Managed technology:** IT problems are a drain on your organization, but even when everything works, you may still be hampered by IT complexities, inefficiencies and unseen risk. Wipfli's managed technology services not only resolve IT problems but also actively work to prevent them.

**Let Wipfli take care of your today and transform your tomorrow. Contact us at [gfpbd@wipfli.com](mailto:gfpbd@wipfli.com) to learn more or get started.**