

# CALIFORNIA FAIRGROUNDS

## Emergency Funding for the Network of California Fairs

### 76 FAIRGROUNDS IN CALIFORNIA

representing all 58 counties serve more than 35 million Californians that visited fairgrounds. Fairgrounds preserve 30,000 jobs annually

### FAIRGROUNDS ARE THE HEARTBEAT

Fairgrounds are often the heartbeat of their community generating over \$35 million in non-profit and community benefits

### REVENUE GENERATION

Fairgrounds generate more than \$3.5 billion in annual economic impact while contributing over \$200 million in tax revenue to local and state government.

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

During natural disasters Fairgrounds serve as command centers for Office of Emergency Services, Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, and FEMA. Fairgrounds serve as hospitals, homeless shelters, warming and cooling centers, and drive-thru testing facilities. Fairgrounds are a community lifeline during: earthquakes, floods, wildfires. Essential shelters for rescued animals. Fairgrounds receive no revenue for these services.

## WHY FAIRGROUNDS MATTER

Fairgrounds are an essential part of the infrastructure necessary for the state to effectively respond in natural disasters and emergencies. During wildfires, Fairgrounds stage emergency vehicles and fire equipment, shelter displaced residents and animals, and generally support the community efforts to cope

with each emergency. As an example, several Fairgrounds are currently serving as coronavirus testing centers, command centers for the Office of Emergency Services, or homeless shelters to help the state's effort to deal with the myriad of issues resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. California Fairgrounds receive no revenue for providing these necessary services.

### GROUNDS FOR EMERGENCY

The cost of canceled events and the closure of California's 76 Fairs is estimated at \$200 million based on 2018 figures, additional liabilities to date and inflation. California's 76 Fairs operate with collective revenue of \$420,055,785 and collective expense of \$392,585,565, per the 2018 CDFA Statement of Operations (STOP).

### GROUNDS FOR CONCERN

- Fair funding in decline
- Aging infrastructure of State Facilities
- At risk: More than \$3.5 billion in annual economic impact
- At risk: More than 30,000 jobs tied to Fairgrounds
- At risk: More than \$200 million in tax revenue generated annually
- At risk: More than \$35 million in non-profit and community benefits

*Based on data* from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the California Fair Network incurred more than \$330 million in expenditures in 2018. It is estimated the Network would need at least \$200 million to cover outstanding costs for the remainder of 2020. Most fairs will also need assistance through the first and second quarter of 2021 as they prepare to host events again, like the Annual Fair.

*We respectfully request* your help during these unprecedented challenging times by appropriating \$300 million in emergency assistance to the Network of California Fairs. Without this level of support, many fairs will close.



Perhaps no institution more positively touches more citizens and more communities than the state's vast network of Fairgrounds, which are the heartbeat of urban, rural and suburban California."  
- Former United States Rep. Dennis Cardoza (D-Modesto),