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The Alliance - Leading the Nation
Mississippi leads the way nationally through the Alliance's efforts as the only statewide entity in the country that strategically brings nonprofits and philanthropy together to learn, share, and solve problems collaboratively.

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The Alliance - Drawing Philanthropic Investment

The Alliance serves as a resource to regional and national funders interested in building a short- or long-term investment presence in the state. 54.5% of the total annual philanthropic dollars spent in Mississippi are from out-of-state funders.

(Source: 2019 Philanthropic Giving in Mississippi Report)

Our strategic partners

- Association of Fundraising Professionals - Mississippi Chapter
- Candid (formerly GuideStar and The Foundation Center)
- Independent Sector
- Millsaps College
- Mississippi Department of Health
- Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center
- National Council of Nonprofits
- Network for Good
- Regional Volunteer and Nonprofit Hub Network
- Society of Nonprofits
- United Philanthropy Forum
- University of Mississippi
- University of Southern Mississippi
- Volunteer Mississippi
- William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation

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- Barksdale Reading Institute
- Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi
- Community Foundation for Mississippi
- Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi
- CREATE Foundation
- Entergy
- Foundation for the Mid South
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation
- Maddox Foundation
- Phil Hardin Foundation
- Regions Bank
- The Chisholm Foundation
- Walker Foundation
- Wells Fargo
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Woodward Hines Education Foundation
The Alliance – Enabling a Unified Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic crisis

Since the COVID-19 crisis hit Mississippi, The Alliance team mobilized to provide:

- 25 Consultations & Webinars specific to COVID-19 response
- 1,000+ Participant Engagements
- 84 Free consultations to organizations requesting support
- 38 Hours of Learning Opportunities (training, webinars, and consultation), as of June 1

• Facilitated policy work including the Education Affinity Group, Mississippi Department of Education and state legislators to address the digital divide

• Proposed allocating resources from CARES Act for Mississippi nonprofits providing services and aid to Mississippians

• Through volunteer hubs, facilitated safe placement of volunteers in front-line nonprofit responder organizations

• Collected and shared resources on The Alliance website focused on enhancing or improving nonprofits’ response during COVID-19

• In partnership with Volunteer Mississippi, conducted three statewide surveys - two Community Impact Surveys and a Philanthropic Response Survey - to identify nonprofit resource needs in local communities

The Alliance and its partner, Volunteer Mississippi, established the statewide Volunteer and Non-profit Hub Network to:

- position Mississippi nonprofits to rapidly respond to local and regional community needs
- serve as a critical intermediary between local nonprofits and the public sector
- provide a statewide infrastructure consisting of 8 regions to work with nonprofits and volunteers
- effectively mobilize volunteers to work with and support nonprofits
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Mississippi nonprofits deserve the best possible resources in the form of training, collaboration, and capacity building.

The Alliance provides tools for Mississippi nonprofits to develop skills they need to produce successful outcomes. The Alliance researched national best practices and standards for both nonprofits and philanthropy and adapted them for Mississippi, resulting in the publication of the MS Alliance Principles and Standards for Nonprofit and Philanthropy Excellence©. This body of work informs Alliance programming and serves as the framework for the Excellence In Action (EIA) curriculum. More than 400 organizations have participated in EIA.

- Offers 15 learning opportunities, providing 20 hours of content, to Alliance members monthly.
- Engages an average of 15 trainers and consultants each month to assist Alliance members.

“Our museum completed The EIA Certification Program in 2016. Because we improved our organizational capacity through EIA, we submitted an improved grant application with solid data that earned us a grant award of over one million dollars to expand the museum. We fully credit EIA with preparing us for this opportunity.”

- An EIA graduate

The Alliance leverages philanthropic resources

Economic and social impact

For every dollar invested through grantmaking and philanthropic activity, there is a direct economic and social impact reflected by a $8.28 return on investment. There is considerable investment and positive impact on the state’s economy.

(Source: The Economic and Social Impact of Mississippi Philanthropic Grants, 2020, a study commissioned by the Alliance)

The Alliance’s Education Affinity Group, in partnership with Barksdale Reading Institute and the Mississippi Department of Education, is playing a major convener and facilitator role in the distribution of CARES Act resources focused on closing the state’s digital divide.

The Community Foundation Network (an affinity group of The Alliance) will play a leadership role in the effective distribution of $8 million in CARES Act funding for Mississippi nonprofits.
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