

Coronavirus Relief / Health Care Response / COVID-19 Minnesota Funds Request Form

Please complete this form in accordance with the process instructions.

Agency/Point of Contact: Minnesota Zoo / John Frawley, Director

Title of Request: Preserve the Minnesota Zoo

Date: 6/30/2020 **Request Amount:** \$ 6,000,000

Expenditure Time Period: 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021

Request Funding Source:

- Coronavirus Relief Fund (if selected complete page 2)
- Health Care Response Fund
- COVID-19 Minnesota Fund

Brief Summary of Request: (Summary must be complete on this page with supporting information attached)

An authorization of \$6 million is requested to maintain operations at the Minnesota Zoo during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Zoo relies on earned income for two-thirds of its operating budget. With the closure of the Zoo during the COVID-19 outbreak, and anticipated lower revenues due to continued social distancing, additional funding is necessary to ensure animal care continues and specialized facilities and equipment are maintained.

Projected revenue loss for the FY2020-21 biennium is over \$15 million. As a state agency, the Zoo is not eligible for the federal paycheck protection program, lines of credit, or many other tools used by businesses and nonprofits to weather this crisis. If approved, this request would replace less than half of the anticipated biennial loss, and is just one piece of a multi-year financial strategy. Already, the Zoo has laid off a significant number of staff, reduced hours for other staff where possible, cancelled or delayed major projects, and cut spending in areas that do not affect the health and safety of the animals.

The Zoo is actively working on phased reopening plans that meet social distancing guidelines while maximizing earned and contributed revenue. However, even with those plans in place, the Zoo cannot balance the FY 2021 budget without state assistance - current cash flow projections indicate the Zoo's general operating budget would run out of cash by early calendar year 2021. Cutting expenses more than what has been done already would limit the Zoo's ability to generate the projected \$7 million in earned revenue currently included in the FY 2021 budget. Even if the Zoo were to cut all expenses except animal care and basic maintenance, the remaining cost would still exceed the annual state appropriation. Without additional state appropriations, the Zoo will likely close indefinitely, begin the process of refunding millions of dollars in memberships, and reduce the animal collection and assets.


Department Head Signature

6/30/2020
Date