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For the last 50 years, the all-volunteer Board of United Way of Puerto Rico (UWPR), affiliated to United Way Worldwide, has worked with, social investors, nonprofit affiliated agencies and partners from different backgrounds to develop and support programs focusing on **education, financial stability and health** as the pillars for achieving a positive quality of life.

We have the capacity of assuming the role of implementation partners of social projects with the government, private corporations and foundations through the 131 United Way affiliated organizations in Puerto Rico. At the present time, UWPR financially supports 131 nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to the community, impacting more than a million individuals and families in need.

Given the fiscal and social reality of Puerto Rico, United Way of Puerto Rico becomes the bridge of collective action and active agent in the implementation of innovative strategies, which ensure the necessary services for the development of a secure, healthy and educated society. These will serve as the pillars to achieve the quality of life that we all wish for.

United Way of Puerto Rico, a volunteer driven organization, and it's very effective professionals, has proven its capacity and experience implementing community impact projects financed by different sources. During the past 50 years, we have channeled countless volunteer hours, almost \$300M in contributions of nearly 140,000 donors from 425 private companies and the government sector. In collaboration with the Health Department and the University of Puerto Rico, we have implemented the Sexual Abstinence Education Plan of the Health and Human Services Department of the United States. So far, this initiative has channeled over \$6M. Our compliance with the required metrics reached 96%, while the average compliance in the United States is only 68%.

We are ready to develop additional collaborations which will help to reach additional vulnerable populations and serve as palliative to be part of those who will solve the social crisis as consequence of the economic crisis. This will require the administrative reengineering of some organizations.

There is a current provision of federal grants that require matching funds. The waiving of the matching requirement would help organizations to improve their financial stability. Said matching will become dramatically affected by the expected budget cuts. Close to 61% of the

funds received by our affiliated organizations proceed from the local government, whereas 9% proceed from the federal government. Waiving the matching requirement will make possible the continued provision of services in Puerto Rico, especially in the education element, which is the best instrument of social mobility to reduce poverty.

UWPR is ready to help rethink our aptitudes, attitudes and skills to reinvent ourselves as a society. We have to provoke a new perspective of developing alliances between private corporations, government and the nonprofit sector.

For Puerto Rico to blossom again in the next few years, we need strong ties with different groups, promoting a culture of sharing knowledge, collaborations, resources and information. To contract our nonprofit organizations as the operational arm for disadvantaged communities and populations, by temporarily exempting us from the required matching funds, will create the opportunity for growth and the offering of services which cement a new foundation to build the new Puerto Rico we all desire.

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