



September 18, 2020

### **Notice of Third Party Vendor Data Incident**

The University of South Carolina Upstate Foundations is notifying individuals of a recent third party vendor data incident in which certain personal information may have been compromised.

We were notified that Blackbaud, Inc., an outside vendor, discovered and stopped a ransomware attack of Blackbaud's self-hosted platform in May 2020. Blackbaud is a global market leader in third-party applications used by many charities, health, and educational organizations in the U.S. and abroad.

According to Blackbaud, prior to being locked out, the cybercriminal removed a copy of a subset of data from its self-hosted environment which contained information related to individuals affiliated with multiple charitable institutions. Blackbaud reports that it paid the cybercriminal's demand and received confirmation that the copy of the data removed has been destroyed. According to Blackbaud, this incident occurred at some point between February 7, 2020 and May 20, 2020 and was discovered in May of 2020.

Based on review of our records that were maintained on the Blackbaud platforms, some of our constituents' names, addresses, Social Security number, date of birth, driver's license number and/or banking account information may have been involved in the incident.

Based on the nature of the incident, Blackbaud's research, and third-party investigation, including investigation by law enforcement, Blackbaud has stated that it has no reason to believe that any data went beyond the cybercriminal, was or will be misused, or will be disseminated or otherwise made available publicly. Blackbaud reports it has hired a third-party team of experts to monitor the dark web as an extra precautionary measure.

We have no reason to believe that any personal information impacted by this incident was inappropriately used. However, we recommend that affected individuals remain vigilant and monitor account statements and credit reports carefully and report any discrepancies to law enforcement. Fraud alerts and security freezes can also be activated to help protect individuals. The University of South Carolina Upstate Foundations is providing free credit monitoring for those individuals whose Social Security number or other sensitive financial information was potentially part of this incident. The University of South Carolina Upstate Foundations is in the process of sending notification letters to individuals for whom it has a last known address who may have been affected by this incident.

If you have any questions about this incident, please email us at [BlackbaudIR@uscupstate.edu](mailto:BlackbaudIR@uscupstate.edu) or leave us a message at 866-681-5159 and include your full name, phone number, and your question(s), and we will respond with the information that we have at that time. We are fully committed to protecting your personal information and sincerely apologize for any concern this incident may have caused you.