

## **About the Blackbaud Data Security Incident**

The ADA Foundation (“ADAF”) would like to inform visitors to the ADAF site that we learned of a data security incident at one of our former service providers, Blackbaud, involving some ADAF donor information.

Blackbaud’s software hosts data for nonprofit fundraising entities such as colleges, universities, health care organizations, schools, and other organizations; ADAF was among the many affected nonprofits whose data was involved in the incident. Fortunately, we believe that there is a low risk of harm to affected donors based on the type of information involved. Please note that the ADA’s own IT servers and databases were not the subject of the incident.

### **What Happened and What Information Was Involved**

Blackbaud alerted us that it was the victim of a ransomware attack conducted between February and May 2020. Blackbaud reported that it managed to lock the cybercriminal out of its system, but before doing so, some backup files from Blackbaud’s platform were accessed and extracted. Importantly, Blackbaud has confirmed that ***no credit card, bank account information, or social security numbers (to the extent they even existed) were compromised or accessed because this data was stored in encrypted format.***

After a careful review, we determined that the ADAF data that was subject to unauthorized disclosure may have included information such as donors’ names and full dates of birth. However, we and Blackbaud believe that there is a low risk that the data will be misused: Blackbaud paid a ransom to the cybercriminal only after working with law enforcement and third-party experts and receiving credible confirmation that the data obtained had been destroyed.

### **Continued Mitigation**

Blackbaud has reported that it hired outside experts to continue to monitor the Internet, including the dark web, and they have found no evidence that any information was ever released by the cybercriminal. Blackbaud plans to continue its monitoring activities for the foreseeable future. For additional information about Blackbaud’s response to the incident, please visit <https://www.blackbaud.com/securityincident>.

At this time, there is no action required by donors of the Foundation. As a best practice in today’s world of cybercrime, we recommend continued vigilance, and that any suspicious activity or suspected identity theft be reported to us and to the proper law enforcement authorities. ADAF donors currently residing in North Dakota have been notified of this incident via letter as required by state law. In the spirit of transparency and out of an abundance of caution, we are also communicating this information to the entire ADA membership base through a news alert as well as to supporters of ADAF through this post.

We deeply value our donors’ support and sincerely apologize for this incident. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [foundation@ada.org](mailto:foundation@ada.org) with any further questions.

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