

Coronavirus Equity Considerations

The Imperative for Civil Rights Advocacy, Monitoring, and Enforcement

A widely impactful public health crisis is upon us. The tentacles of its impact are many and pervasive, from social, to economic, to environmental implications. As a civil rights organization and as stewards of human rights, this outbreak calls on us to maintain vigilance and lift our voices to demand the policies and practices that will preserve the wellbeing of all.

Already we've seen many equity and justice challenges that must be addressed before they worsen and cause further damage. We must recognize and stand up against racial/ethnic discrimination and stereotyping. Our federal, state and local governments must ensure necessary policies and practices are in place, so that needed information, training, resources, and care are available equitably and reach all people in all communities. As we think about the upcoming Census and elections, the novel coronavirus pandemic underscores the ongoing need to push for affordable, quality health care coverage; a welltrained, diverse health care and medical research workforce; and accessible sources of care (hospitals, Federally Qualified Health Centers) for all.

At this same time, even as we advance changes in response to what's before us now, we must examine the systemic inequities that have exacerbated impact and ensure that we begin to enact transformational societal shifts to address the root causes of vulnerabilities and systems failure.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS:

- Racism and stigmatization have increased, particularly towards the Asian and Asian American population.
 - a. Coronavirus: The latest disease to fuel mistrust, fear, and racism—The Conversation
 - b. What historians hear when Trump calls coronavirus 'Chinese' and 'foreign'—CNN
 - c. Feds Sound Alarm Over Claims of Asian Discrimination in Schools—The Wall Street Journal
 - d. FBI warns of potential surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans amid coronavirus—ABC News
 - e. Coronavirus panic sparks racist incidents against Asian Americans—CBS News
 - Coronavirus anxiety is devastating Chinese businesses in New York City—CNN
 - g. Spit On, Yelled At, Attacked: Chinese-Americans Fear for Their Safety-NY Times
 - h. Irate Subway Passenger Sprays Asian Man With Air Freshener Over Coronavirus Concerns—NBC New
 - i. NYPD Investigating Hate Crime After Asian Woman Allegedly Punched For Not Wearing Face Mask— Gothamist
 - j. How Asian-American Leaders Are Grappling With Xenophobia Amid Coronavirus—NY Times
 - k. Pinning Coronavirus on How Chinese People Eat Plays Into Racist Assumptions—Eater
 - I. Coronavirus, pangolins and racism; Why conservationism and prejudice shouldn't mix—NBC
 - m. Some evangelical leaders are linking LGBTQ people to coronavirus outbreak—NY Post
 - n. Trump Cabinet's Bible teacher says gays cause 'God's wrath' in COVID-19 blog post—NBC
 - o. Israeli Rabbi: Coronavirus is divine punishment for gay pride parades—Times of Israel
 - p. How Social Distancing Could Lead to a Spike in White Nationalism—Rolling Stone
 - g. Is This Central Park Field Hospital Being Run By A Hate Group?—Refinery29
- II. Certain populations face disproportionate exposure and differential access to and quality of response measures, with extensive corresponding implications.
 - a. Grandparents engaged to provide childcare when schools closed are at greater risk.
 - i. Fears of virus risk to grandparents offering emergency care—The Guardian

- b. Persons in the criminal justice system face multiple injustices.
 - i. Pending court cases are deferred indefinitely as courthouses closed, leaving people in jail, who haven't been convicted of a crime, in limbo and potentially unfairly detained.
 - 1. What happens to people's legal cases as coronavirus shuts down courts?—NPR
 - 2. DC Superior Court Shuts Down Except for 'Absolutely Essential' Proceedings After Marshal Tests Positive for COVID-19—The National Law Journal
 - 3. The coronavirus could spark a humanitarian disaster in jails and prisons—The Slate
 - ii. Risk to incarcerated persons is significantly more than the general population due to confined space.
 - 1. Coronavirus: 38 test positive in New York City jails, including Rikers Island—The Guardian
 - 2. Correctional Facilities the Perfect Incubators for Coronavirus—Mother Jones
 - 3. Prisons and Jails are Vulnerable to COVID 19 Outbreaks—The Verge
 - 4. Ga. inmate dies from COVID-19 as virus hits more prisons—The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
 - 5. 134 inmates at Cook County Jail confirmed positive for COVID-19—Chicago Sun-
 - 6. Rikers Island Prisoners Being Offered PPE and \$6 an Hour to Dig Mass Graves— The Intercept
 - 7. The Coronavirus Could Spark a Humanitarian Disaster in Jails and Prisons—Slate
 - 8. Coronavirus inevitable in prison-like US immigration centers, doctors say—The
 - 9. First immigrant in ICE detention center tests positive for coronavirus—The Hill
 - 10. 3 migrant children in U.S. custody test positive for coronavirus—CBS News
 - 11. 'I won't survive': Iranian scientist in US detention says ICE will let Covid-19 kill many—The Guardian
 - 12. ICE Detainees With HIV Are Pleading to Be Released to Avoid Coronavirus—Vice
 - 13. Immigrants Now on Hunger Strike in 3 ICE Detention Centers Over Coronavirus Fears—Vice
 - 14. Sixth ICE detainee tests positive for COVID-19 as hunger strikes begin—Roll Call
 - 15. No need to wait for pandemics: The public health case for criminal justice reform— Prison Policy Initiative
 - 16. New York State Has Prisoners Making Hand Sanitizer. It's Unclear If Prisoners Can Use It.—Mother Jones
 - 17. Coronavirus: US prison inmates to make hospital gowns and masks amid critical shortage—Independent
- c. African-American communities and others confronting historic and systemic racism may bear an undue burden of the crisis.
 - i. The Coronavirus is Revealing Our Racial Divides—The Atlantic
 - ii. Social Distancing Is a Privilege—NY Times
 - iii. How Racial Health Disparities Will Play Out in the Pandemic—Slate
 - iv. 3.3 Million Americans Filed for Unemployment Benefits. Here's What That Means for Black People—The Root
 - v. Black Businesses Left Behind in Covid-19 Relief—CityLab
 - vi. Covid-19 Restrictions on Birth & Breastfeeding: Disproportionately Harming Black and Native Women—Women's eNews
 - vii. Black Americans face an uphill battle against the coronavirus—The Miami Times
 - viii. On Being Black, Southern And Rural In The Time Of COVID-19—Essence
 - ix. Milwaukee
 - 1. Why Is Coronavirus Killing More Black People in Milwaukee Than in All Of Wisconsin?—NewsOne

- 2. The majority of Milwaukee coronavirus cases are middle-aged African American men—Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
- 3. COVID-19 Deaths Concentrated in Milwaukee's African American Community— Wisconsin Public Radio
- 4. Milwaukee's Black Community Hit Hard By Coronavirus—US News and World Reports
- 5. 'Hit Hard': Majority of Milwaukee's Coronavirus Cases on Milwaukee's North Side, African American Community—CBS 58
- 6. More than 900 cases of COVID-19 in Wisconsin. 16 deaths—WBAY

x. Chicago

- 1. Chicago's Coronavirus Disparity: Black Chicagoans are dying at nearly six times the rate of white residents, data shows—Chicago Tribune
- 2. 'Those numbers take your breath away': Covid-19 is hitting Chicago's black neighborhoods much harder than others, officials say—The Washington Post

xi. Louisiana

- 1. Coronavirus disparity in Louisiana: About 70% of the victims are black, but why?— NOLA.com
- 2. 'Big disparity': 70% of Louisiana's coronavirus deaths are African Americans. governor says—WDSU.com
- d. Immigrant health and wellbeing are at increased risk due to a range of factors including fear of detention, denial of healthcare, and language access issues (which can also affect people born in the US whose primary language is not English).
 - i. With Coronavirus, 'Health Care for Some' Is a Recipe for Disaster—NY Times
 - ii. Democrats warn Trump's immigration policies risk aggravating coronavirus—The Hill
 - iii. 'We're Petrified': Immigrants Afraid to Seek Medical Care for Coronavirus—NY Times
 - iv. 'Maybe if I Had Papers, It Would Have Been Different': Undocumented During a Pandemic—The Nation
 - v. Hospitals Have Left Many COVID-19 Patients Who Don't Speak English Alone, Confused and Without Proper Care—ProPublica
 - vi. Five Ways COVID-19 Is Changing Global Migration—CSIS
 - vii. Hospitals Have Left Many COVID-19 Patients Who Don't Speak English Alone, Confused, and Without Proper Care—ProPublica
 - viii. Language Barriers Leave US Communities Out of COVID-19 Info—Telesurtv.net
- e. Elderly persons with chronic illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease, all of which are more prevalent in African American communities, and, to some extent, Latino and Native American communities, are more likely to be severely impacted by the virus.
 - i. Here's what older at-risk people should know about the virus.—Healthline
 - ii. She Begged For Mercy. The Utility Cut Her Elderly Parents' Power Anyway.—Huffington Post
- People with disabilities face differential access, risk, and impacts.
 - i. Five things to know about coronavirus and people with disabilities—Forbes
 - ii. When schools close or go online, what happens to students with disabilities?—USA Today
 - iii. People With Disabilities Say Rationing Care Policies Violate Civil Rights—NPR
 - iv. For the deaf or hard of hearing, face masks pose new challenge—CNN
- **q.** Nursing homes have been hit hard by the outbreak.
 - i. Nursing homes face unique challenge with coronavirus—US News and World Reports
 - ii. For Relatives of Nursing Home Residents, Anger and Worry Spread—Time
- h. Risk for persons experiencing homelessness is at least doubled.

- i. Homeless at 'double risk' of getting, spreading coronavirus—ABC News
- ii. Homeless among the most vulnerable to coronavirus, experts say—Fox News
- iii. 'Stay home?' 500,000 homeless Americans can't follow coronavirus advice—Curbed
- iv. How Do You Shelter in Place When You Don't Have a Home?—The New Yorker
- v. As Thousands of Las Vegas Hotel Rooms Sit Empty, City Paints 'Social Distancing Boxes' in Parking Lot for Homeless People—Common Dreams
- vi. 'I Have to Move Into a Homeless Shelter': Coronavirus Evictions Have Begun-Vice
- vii. Coronavirus Heroes Are Getting Tossed From Their Homes by Scared Landlords—Daily Beast
- i. Low income communities under guarantine and unable to work will not be able to buy basic needs-food, water, and non-toxic sanitation supplies. They may also need assistance with energy bills and mortgage or rent, as well as transportation needs.
 - i. For urban poor coronavirus complicates existing health risks—NY Times
 - ii. Avoiding coronavirus may be a luxury some workers can't afford—NY Times
 - iii. Colorado wants to make sure coronavirus doesn't affect low income communities. minorities, disproportionately-The Colorado Sun
 - iv. Rural Americans are vulnerable to the virus—Center for American Progress
 - v. Utilities Face Pressure To Stop Shutting Off Services Amid Coronavirus Pandemic-**Huffington Post**
 - vi. Mayor Garcetti announces water and power will be shut off for nonessential L.A. businesses that don't close—KTLA 5
 - vii. Teen who may have died of coronavirus was turned away from urgent care due to lack of insurance—The Hill
 - viii. Landlord Worth \$1 Billion Exploits Coronavirus Panic To Jack Up Rent 25 Percent— Gothamist
 - ix. With Cuomo Silent On Relief, Some Desperate NYC Tenants Say "There's No Choice" But To Rent Strike—Gothamist
 - x. 40% of N.Y. Tenants May Not Pay Rent This Month. What Happens Then?—NY Times
- Native American communities are challenged by issues of sovereignty, nationhood, unfulfilled treaty rights, and under-resourced communities. Long distances to health care facilities create greater barriers to access to care for rural Native American populations. Under-resourced health care facilities and fractured systems of care may mean that Indian Health Service (IHS) may not have the capability to respond if there are a significant number of cases.
 - i. "We are not ready for this: Native American tribes struggle to deal with the coronavirus— The Salt Lake Tribune
 - ii. The Navajo Nation Prepares for Coronavirus—Phoenix New Times
 - iii. Navajo Nation President: U.S. Government Ignoring Native Americans Amid Coronavirus—Huffington Post
 - iv. The White House Wanted To Give \$0 To Tribes In The \$2 Trillion Stimulus Bill— **Huffington Post**
- k. Gendered impacts tend to be recognized globally before the US acknowledges differential experiences but undoubtedly the disproportionate exposure from being frontline care workers, the childcare needs as schools close, and domestic violence are factors that will be seen as this crisis unfolds.
 - i. Coronavirus and Poverty: A Mother Skips Meals So Her Children Can Eat—NY Times
 - ii. Coronavirus: Five Ways Virus Upheaval is Hitting Women in Asia—BBC.com
 - iii. Gender and the Coronavirus Outbreak—Think Global Health
 - iv. Texas halts abortion services amid coronavirus outbreak—CBS News
 - v. Coronavirus is hindering access to reproductive health services—The Hill

- vi. Covid-19 Restrictions on Birth & Breastfeeding: Disproportionately Harming Black and Native Women—Women's eNews
- I. Rural communities may face worsened shortages in resources and healthcare
 - i. What happens when a city's hospital closes 'without warning' during a pandemic—The
- m. Communities living in polluted areas are differentially vulnerable because of COVID-19's targeting and weakening lungs, exacerbated by the roll-back of monitoring and enforcement of environmental protection laws.
 - i. "An open license to pollute": Trump administration indefinitely suspends environmental protection laws during coronavirus pandemic—CBS News
 - ii. COVID-19 Could Be a 'Double Whammy' for Those in Pollution Hotspots—Texas Observer
 - iii. If You Live with Air Pollution, You're Already More Vulnerable to Covid-19—Gizmodo
 - iv. Air pollution and case fatality of SARS in the People's Republic of China: an ecologic study—Environmental Health
 - v. It's Time to Sound the Alarm for Communities Most Vulnerable to the Coronavirus—U.S. News & World Report

III. Frontline workers face tough choices amid differential health and economic risks and impacts.

- a. Healthcare workers, TSA agents, service workers, home care providers, and others are being extensively exposed
 - i. More than half of New Orleans' emergency medical workers are under quarantine, mayor savs—CNN
 - ii. At least 5 US health workers have gotten the coronavirus, and hundreds more are in quarantine. Hospitals may face staffing shortages as cases surge.—Business Insider
 - iii. Head of largest nurses union in US says they 'don't have protections they need' from coronavirus—ABC News
 - iv. NYC coronavirus first responders sleeping in cars for fear of infecting loved ones— **MSNBC**
 - v. Hospitals Tell Doctors They'll Be Fired If They Speak Out About Lack of Gear-Bloomberg
 - vi. What Happens If Health-Care Workers Stop Showing Up?—The Atlantic
 - vii. 3 TSA Workers in San Jose Test Positive for the Coronavirus—CBS News
 - viii. Forced to Work Sick? That's Fine With Disney, Red Lobster, and Their Friends at ALEC.—Mother Jones
 - ix. 'They don't care about safety': Amazon workers struggle with pandemic demand—The Guardian
 - x. Amazon fires worker who organized strike over coronavirus response—NY Post
 - xi. New York City has opened a human-rights probe into Amazon's firing of a warehouse worker who led a strike against the company over coronavirus safety concerns— Business Insider
 - xii. A Hospitality Union Said 90% Of Its Members Might Lose Work Because Of The Coronavirus Epidemic—BuzzFeed News
 - xiii. Starbucks Employees Are Begging the Company to Shut Down Stores Because of Coronavirus: 'Coffee Is Not Essential'—VICE News
 - xiv. 'Some may even die, I don't know': Former Wells Fargo CEO wants people to go back to work and 'see what happens'—Business Insider
- b. Protection for cleaners, including domestic workers, is lacking, resulting in differential exposure and risk.

- i. Airport workers say they lacked gloves and training to clean planes amid coronavirus—
- ii. Coronavirus in NY: Workers don hazmat suits to scrub germs off NYC buses—NY Post
- iii. They Clean the Buildings Workers Are Fleeing. But Who's Protecting Them?—NY Times
- c. Many workers can't afford to be off work due to lost pay.
 - i. Coronavirus poses risk for workers who can't afford to lose pay—Wall Street Journal
 - ii. Paid sick leave could prevent the spread of coronavirus but 18 states prevent local governments from implementing—The Business Insider
 - iii. Lack of Paid Leave Risks Public Health During the Coronavirus Outbreak—Center for American Progress
 - iv. Black and Hispanic workers are less likely to be able to work from home, a new report savs-CNN
 - v. Coronavirus Relief Package Fails to Provide Aid to Millions of Immigrants, Including Many on the Front Lines—Immigration Impact
 - vi. Real Heroes: Mexican Farmers Work Hard To Supply Food Amid COVID-19—Latin Post
 - vii. Millions of workers in the US won't be getting stimulus checks—CNN
 - viii. Coronavirus economic relief proposals are overlooking the 57 million Americans who are self-employed—Fortune
 - ix. 1,200 Airport Workers in N.Y.C. Area Abruptly Laid Off With No Severance—NY Times
 - x. The missing piece in the coronavirus stimulus bill: Relief for immigrants—Vox
 - xi. USPS warns it might have to shutter by June as \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus package provides no funding—Fortune
 - xii. Bon Secours Mercy Health furloughs 700 employees amid coronavirus—Virginia **Business**
- d. Gig Economy workers have little choice in being on the frontlines of exposure.
 - i. Coronavirus hits gig workers particularly hard—Financial Times
 - ii. Self-isolate or get paid? That's the choice for gig workers in a virus outbreak—CNN
 - iii. Virus spread emphasizes precariousness of gig economy work—Axios
 - iv. 'Hopeless and scared': Uber and Lyft drivers face financial ruin after coronavirus—Yahoo Finance

Democracy vehicles are being jeopardized by coronavirus impacts. IV.

- a. Census Bureau is beginning to weigh how coronavirus may affect operations.
 - i. The Census Bureau wasn't counting on coronavirus—The City Lab
 - ii. Spread of coronavirus could undermine the 2020 Census—The Washington Post
- b. Primaries and other political gatherings impacted.
 - i. Ten More States Have Primaries in March. Here's How Coronavirus Could Affect Voter Turnout—Time
 - ii. Louisiana postpones primary as states scramble to adjust to coronavirus—Politico
 - iii. Ohio Republican Secretary of State Frank LaRose ordered all polling places located in senior centers and nursing homes to be moved—OH Secretary of State
 - iv. Media Silent as Poll Workers Contract Covid-19 at Primaries That DNC, Biden Campaign Claimed Were Safe—Fairness & Accuracy In Reporting .
 - v. CPAC Attendee Has the Coronavirus, Attendees Say—NY Times
 - vi. Democratic National Convention Pushed Back to August--CNN
- c. Important government decisions may not receive the full democratic process, including public comment periods, that the public deserves.
 - i. D.C. could get severely shortchanged in federal coronavirus stimulus bill—Washington Post

- ii. National And Community Groups Call On FDIC, OCC To Suspend CRA Rulemaking For COVID-19—National Community Reinvestment Coalition
- iii. Coronavirus Doesn't Slow Trump's Regulatory Rollbacks—NY Times
- iv. Trump's refusal to relax Iran sanctions during the coronavirus threatens everyone—NBC
- v. Sanctions against Iran and Venezuela during a pandemic are cruel—People's Dispatch
- vi. "Cruel:" Trump Admin. Moves to Take Land of Mashpee Tribe—Whose Casino Plans Irked President's "Special Interest Friends"—Out of Trust—Common Dreams
- vii. States Quietly Pass Laws Criminalizing Fossil Fuel Protests Amid Coronavirus Chaos— **Huffington Post**
- viii. U.S. to Announce Rollback of Auto Pollution Rules, a Key Effort to Fight Climate Change—NY Times
- ix. Trump Says US to Deploy Anti-Drug Navy Ships Near Venezuela—NBC Bay Area'We Know This Script': Naomi Klein Warns of 'Coronavirus Capitalism' in New Video Detailing Battle Before Us—Common Dreams
- V. Coronavirus remediation will result in increased exposure to toxic cleaning chemicals from products used in households, businesses, schools, which may harm occupants and cleaners.
 - a. Coronavirus: Disinfectants selling out at Sacramento stores—KCRA.com
 - b. Abilene Sells Out of Cleaning Supplies, Masks Amid Coronavirus Concerns—KTXS.com
 - c. The Dirty Truth About Cleaning Products—The Today Show
 - d. Environmental Working Group's Hall of Shame: Toxic Household Cleaners—CBS News
- As schools close, children who rely on free meals suffer from missed meals, college students VI. experience housing insecurity if they don't have a home to which to return, and students experience education interruption.
 - a. Coronavirus is closing schools. Here's what it means for millions of kids who rely on school meals—Civic Eats
 - b. Parents express concern over how coronavirus could impact schools—Hawaii News
 - c. Many Districts Won't Be Ready for Remote Learning If Coronavirus Closes Schools—Ed News
 - a. More states extend school closures, some through the end of the school year—CNN
 - b. Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable College Students: Amid the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic, Low Income Students Face Risk of Homelessness and Hunger—Monarch Housing
- VII. Testing kits are lacking and when they become available, it's unclear how access will be prioritized and for whom, as well as what the implications of diagnosis will be for those who are uninsured.
 - a. How many Americans have been tested for coronavirus?—The Atlantic
 - b. Coronavirus: White House concedes US lacks enough test kits—BBC News
 - c. Major retailers have opened only 5 drive-thru testing locations, none available to the general public-CNN
 - d. The CDC's rocky efforts to get the US tested for coronavirus, explained—Vox
 - e. Colorado changes policy for drive-up COVID-19 testing facility—KOAA News5
 - f. CANCELED: Town of Darien has canceled drive-through coronavirus testing—Darien Times
 - g. An uninsured 17-year-old died after being denied care for coronavirus symptoms—Mic
 - h. Brooklyn teacher denied coronavirus test three times now on life support—The Grio
 - i. Coronavirus doesn't discriminate. Neither should testing and treatment.—Boston Globe

VIII. Quarantine policies and practices are unfolding with a risk to human and civil rights, given the unprecedented scale of the outbreak, possibly exacerbated by the historic experiences of marginalized communities with state sponsored confinement.

- a. What Can the Government Force People to Do in the Name of Containing the Virus?—LA Times
- b. The US Government Can Contain You for Coronavirus and There's Almost Nothing You Can Do About It—The Washington Post
- c. Cancer patient quarantined on cruise ship fears she won't make it home for chemotherapy— Fox40 News
- d. Neenah family now back together after being separated due to coronavirus quarantine—Fox 11
- e. Indiana Department of Correction has suspended visitation at all facilities—State of Indiana
- f. Mississippi Department of Corrections suspends all visitation due to coronavirus threat—WLOX
- g. DC mayor threatens jail time for leaving home during coronavirus—NY Post
- h. Maryland police respond to more than 400 calls for stay-at-home order violations—Capital Gazette
- i. Baja California to use police and military forces to keep people inside—San Diego Tribune
- j. 26-Year-Old Black EMT Worker Killed During Police Raid At Her Boyfriend's Home—Blavity

IX. The coronavirus has already been used to justify restrictive immigration policies and increased militarization.

- a. Trump to deploy 160 active duty troops to border in response to court rulings, coronavirus—USA
- b. The US Coronavirus travel ban could backfire: Here's How—CNN
- c. Trump blames dem immigration policy for coronavirus: 'border security is also health security'— Newsweek
- d. 'Walls don't stop viruses': Donald Trump Jr torched for exploiting coronavirus to bash immigration— The Raw Story
- e. With masks at the ready, ICE agents make arrests on first day of CA coronavirus lockdown—LA Times
- f. ICE agents are still performing raids and using precious N95 masks to do so—The Guardian

Denial and misinformation on the crisis can exacerbate the outbreak, by discouraging critical X. precautions.

- a. Trump says the coronavirus is the democrats' new hoax—CNBC
- b. Coronavirus: Trump did not push for early testing 'because higher numbers would harm his reelection chances', report says—UK Independent
- c. As CDC Says, 'Do Not Go to Work,' Trump Says Thousands with Coronavirus Could Go to Work and Get Better—Common Dreams
- d. President Trump said people with coronavirus "go to work" and critics are furious—CBS News
- e. Trump rallies his base to treat coronavirus as a hoax—Politico
- f. Report: Sen. Kelly Loeffler Downplayed the Coronavirus. Simultaneously Invested in Maker of Protective Gear—Vanity Fair
- g. Facebook is flagging some coronavirus news posts as spam—Vox
- h. Trump supporter says she doesn't believe coronavirus exists despite 7 US deaths—The Mirror
- i. It takes a whole world to create a new virus, not just China—The Guardian
- j. Seattle NPR Station Says It Will No Longer Carry Donald Trump's Coronavirus Briefings Live Because Of Misinformation—Yahoo

EMERGING CHALLENGES

- a. Emphasis on corporation bailouts outweigh system responses that support people who are most impacted.
 - i. American Petroleum Institute response to COVID demands protecting polluters over people—Earthworks
 - ii. 'Corporate Socialists' Denounced as Trump Considers Fracking Industry Bailout Amid Coronavirus Outbreak—Common Dreams
 - iii. Coal industry seeks federal help amid coronavirus outbreak—The Salt Lake Tribune
 - iv. West Virginia Offers Coal-Fired Power Plants Tax Break—Bloomberg Tax
 - v. Climate Crisis: COVID-19 Hits Mass Transit, Aviation, Fossil Fuel Industry—The Real News Network
 - vi. Congress to bail out firms that avoided taxes, safety regulations and spent billions boosting their stock—Washington Post
 - vii. U.S. corporate crisis bailouts may prove bonanza for insider trading, new study warns— Reuters
 - viii. Coronavirus: Jeff Bezos, world's richest man, asks public to donate to Amazon relief fund-Yahoo News
- b. Privacy and security are at risk in a new era of virtual communication and remote work.
 - ix. Bosses Panic-Buy Spy Software to Keep Tabs on Remote Workers—Bloomberg
 - x. Lawsuit claims Zoom illegally shared user data with Facebook—NY Post
 - xi. As Coronavirus Surveillance Escalates, Personal Privacy Plummets—NY Times
- c. Coronavirus could weaken the long-term U.S. response to the climate crisis and have more harm in communities on the front lines of environmental and climate injustices.
 - xii. Coronavirus and Climate Change—NY Times
 - xiii. U.S. Solar Workforce Could Be Halved By Virus, Group Says—Bloomberg Green
 - xiv. COVID-19 is slamming efficiency workforce now, and may bring long-term changes for efficiency—American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
 - xv. Coronavirus puts 25 GW of wind projects at risk, says industry group—S&P Global
 - xvi. COVID-19 Threatens Our Prospects for a Clean Energy Future—Morning Consult
 - xvii. Should Northam Reconsider Renewable Energy Legislation in Light of Pandemic?— WVTF

Civil Rights Advocacy Recommendations

The recommendations below are largely only short-term measures to meet immediate needs of those who are most vulnerable. To achieve true justice, we must address the systemic underpinnings of inequity as a constant struggle in the foreground, even as we focus on optimizing emergency service provision so that vulnerabilities do not become liabilities.

The COVID-19 Stimulus Package begins to address some of these issues, but falls short in multiple areas.

Otherwise, as an overarching concern, as recommended by the Open Letter to Mike Pence from Legal and Health Experts, the federal government and federal, local, and state agencies must minimize disruption to government activities throughout the epidemic to continue providing public services to those who need them. Government must have a coordinated plan for keeping its operations running in the event of work absences. Priority should be given to essential services and support to the public, for example ensuring

that Social Security, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program, veterans' benefits, and other forms of support are not disrupted.

Furthermore, in states where there are pre-emption restrictions, there should be consideration of lifting this prohibition for municipalities that are COVID-19 hotspots to allow for greater flexibility in implementing measures to flatten the curve and ensure the health and safety of residents. For example, given the way that COVID-19 targets the lungs, municipalities that have previously been prohibited by prevention from implementing clean air ordinances, should be allowed to do so in order to make the air breathable for those with respiratory limitations resulting from the coronavirus and otherwise.

Finally, as a blanket measure as we adjust to this new temporary normal while trying to advance continuity for all critical aspects of life, we must institute FREE Universal Broadband Access. This is crucial for students and for others to be able to access information to protect themselves, find resources, convene virtually, including critical populations such as folks in need of narcotics anonymous, alcoholics anonymous, and other meetings, etc.

Specific advocacy recommendations in response to the ten identified equity implications are as follows:

Racism/xenophobia/stigma

- a. Short term:
 - i. Advocate for federal, state, and local governmental officials dominating the airways to lead on narrative shift with messaging to include: 1) The virus is the enemy, not the person who is infected; 2) This outbreak could have started anywhere. It just happened to have started in China through no fault of the people of China; 3) This outbreak has nothing to do with the LGBTQ community and whom they choose to love. 4) We are all in this together! We are stronger together. Only through collective, global cooperation can we contain this outbreak!
 - ii. Advocate for support for racial justice groups.
 - iii. Advocate for resourcing of LGBTQ rights, support, and service groups.
- b. Long term: Eradicate racism. Eradicate Xenophobia, Eradicate homophobia.

П. **Vulnerable Populations**

a. Incarcerated persons: Advocate for: 1) Facilities should take all precautions in cleaning/sanitation with non-toxic cleaning supplies; 2) Incarcerated persons must be prioritized for testing, given differential vulnerability. 3) Quality healthcare should be afforded to those who are infected. 4) Any quarantine efforts should not result in persons being put into more restrictive environments, such as solitary confinement cells;

Furthermore, we must advocate to ensure that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201) resolves several limitations:

- i. No new prison sentences or arrests for misdemeanor convictions.
- ii. Implement a video visiting platform where video/virtual visits can be conducted from home instead of requiring the family member or friend to travel to a location (usually a nearby state prison) where the video visit is conducted. It's imperative that people be allowed to stay connected with family during this time, and with people unable to

visit state prisons to conduct video visits for the near term, video visits from home will be the only means for families to stay in contact.

iii. Health Care & Sanitation

- 1. Provide updated information to all incarcerated people and staff on how to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and institute enhanced cleaning protocols for all state correctional institutions to reduce the presence of COVID-19 on surfaces inside of prisons.
- 2. Healthcare in prison and outside of prison should be completely free and people should be encouraged to seek treatment if they show symptoms of COVID-19. All co-pays should be eliminated and people should be provided all medicines free of charge. Volunteer physicians should be sought in communities surrounding state prisons to assist in treating incarcerated people who contract COVID-19.

iv. Prison Release & Re-entry

- 1. Release as many people on parole as quickly and safely as possible. Criteria should be established for people who have hit their minimum dates and are now parole-eligible that gives them the presumption of parole if they have been misconduct free for a certain amount of time or have demonstrated rehabilitation in other measurable ways. Parole hearings should be expedited for all incarcerated people. Hearings should be waived for people meeting the categories of presumption of parole.
- 2. Explore emergency measures to release as many elderly people, people in prison for violating technical terms of probation, and people with comorbidities and complex medical needs from prison as quickly and safely as possible. The most vulnerable are obviously the elderly, as well as people with cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory illness, high blood pressure and cancer.
- 3. Institute emergency measures to ensure people that coming home have access to re-entry support which will provide them healthcare, housing and all the things they need to be successful and safe in re-entry.
- 4. Re-establish a system of furlough. In societies around the world mass furloughs are being issued as a way to combat COVID-19.
- b. Grandparents at risk via childcare: Advocate for expanded parental leave benefits so that grandparents do not have to be in the position of having to do emergency childcare. This is a matter of workers' rights and corporate social responsibility. This can also be a call to federal government to develop a mechanism to provide a short term benefit (perhaps through the unemployment system so that a new mechanism doesn't have to be developed) for workers in small businesses to be able to have some support when they are unable to work.
- c. Immigrant population and English as a Second Language Speakers: Advocate for: 1) A sanctuary model to be employed regarding testing and treatment of immigrant populations with no fear of detention. Clear messages should go out directing that ICE will not be called for anyone seeking health care. 2) Quarantine sheltering should be provided with no questions asked before, during, or after and this message needs to be very abundantly conveyed so that persons do not fear seeking assistance. 3) Trusted institutions in the community should be resourced, including training, equipment, and supplies, to provide services including testing, health care, and sheltering/quarantine to this differentially vulnerable population that will have trust issues with strangers despite all assurances. 4)

- Provision of real time translation of all materials so that the critical health and safety information is made accessible to all.
- d. Elderly Persons/Persons with Special Health Needs; Advocate for: 1) Municipal and community level mapping of vulnerable households; 2) Prioritization for universal routine testing, monitoring, and treatment; 3) Special delivery of basic needs (food, medicines, supplies, etc.) through mobile units; 4) Training on staying safe and healthy.
- e. Nursing home residents: Advocate for: 1)Prioritization for universal routine testing. monitoring, and treatment; 2) Capacity and resources to remove and support infected persons in quarantine so that they do not infect other residents and/or staff members: 3) Resourced training and supplies for staff and management;

f. Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- i. Short term: Advocate for: 1) Provision of universal emergency sheltering services: 2) Prioritization for universal routine testing; 3) Mobile basic needs delivery, including food, clothing, and sanitation supplies, for those who do not want to accept emergency sheltering services; 4) Training on staying safe and healthy;
- ii. Long term: Eliminate homelessness—housing for ALL!

g. Native American/Indigenous Nations/People

- i. Short Term: Advocate for: 1) Federal and philanthropic support for Native American/Indigenous led groups and nations so that they can determine and implement solutions that work for them.; 2) Increased resources to Indian Health Services as well as provision of mobile service units or temporary heath facilities for
- ii. Long Term: Advocate for: 1) Adherence to treaty rights; 2) Granting of all federal recognition petitions.

h. Women

- i. Short Term: Advocate for financial support for gender justice groups so that they can determine and implement solutions that work for them.
- ii. Long Term: Eliminate sexism and misogyny.

i. Low Income Communities

- i. Short term: Advocate for: 1) Provision of universal emergency sheltering services: 2) Prioritization for universal routine testing, monitoring, and treatment; 3) Mobile basic needs delivery, including food and sanitation supplies; 4) Moratorium on water shut offs, energy shut-offs, evictions, etc.; 5) Equitable public transit to be sustained during and after the pandemic, with ample availability during the pandemic so that riders can practice physical distancing;
- ii. Long term: Establish a universal basic income, which can be implemented starting now.

Furthermore, we must advocate to ensure that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201) resolves several limitations:

- 1. States should be required to use federal-only Medicaid dollars to cover coronavirus testing for the uninsured, especially to protect state budgets and ensure testing to all at-risk persons as needed.
- 2. Ensure that funding to reimburse providers for testing the uninsured does not become a boon for well-resourced health care settings and systems, to the disadvantage of community health centers and public hospitals.

- 3. Regarding the US territories, increased Medicaid funding must correspond with the need for services.
- 4. Further expansion of health care coverage to the uninsured and underinsured.
- 5. Ensure that food assistance provisions are not used to undermine progress made in nutrition guidelines.
- 6. States should be required to adjust their SNAP programs to provide additional support to families with eligible school-age children.
- 7. State work requirements for SNAP recipients should be waived along with federal work requirements.
- 8. Increases in nutrition assistance for the US territories must include the USVI and Guam (not listed in the summary), with an increase to the total allotted so no territory is shortchanged.
- 9. The bill must declare a moratorium on utility shut-offs, including water, electricity, gas/oil, etc.
- 10. Provisions must include cancellation of all student loan debt, particularly given the long -erm impacts of this crisis on the economy.
- 11. The bill lacks any housing proposals. Recommend the following:
 - a. Moratorium on foreclosures and evictions:
 - i. Require loan forbearances for those affected by the pandemic
 - ii. Interest and fees should not be charged
 - iii. Forbearances should stay in place for an extended period to allow homeowners to rebuild their savings
 - iv. Payments should be added to the end of the loan; mortgagors should not have to play catch-up
 - v. Federal government should make sure investors are paid during this period
 - b. Suspend all evictions in process
 - i. Moratorium should include evictions for tax liens and utility payments
 - c. Moratorium on negative credit reporting
 - i. If credit is not affected once income is back in place, economic growth can continue
 - d. Suspend all current and pending debt collection efforts
 - i. Release garnishments
 - e. Increase protections against predatory lending and scams geared towards seniors
- iii. **Long term:** Eradicate poverty.

III. Workers' Rights

- Service Workers/Cleaning workers/Domestic workers
 - i. Short term: Advocate for: 1) Stringent adherent to the standards delineated in the Occupational Safety and Health Act. 2) Provision of training and safety gear as well as non-toxic cleaning materials. 3) Prioritization of provision of routine testing to this differentially vulnerable group; 4) Provision of quality treatment and quarantine in adherence with the standards of the Quarantine Bill of Rights referenced below. 5)

Support for groups such as the National Domestic Workers Alliance and others worker led groups;

Furthermore, we must advocate to ensure that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201) resolves several limitations:

- 1. The bill provides paid sick leave, but not for all.
- 2. It's estimated that about 7 million workers at big companies/firms might fall through the cracks since they are excluded from the bill.
- 3. While the House bill calls for two weeks of paid sick leave at 100% of an individual's salary followed by 12 weeks of pay at 67% salary under the Family and Medical Leave Act, the concern is that if people are asked to stay home beyond that time will there be a caveat for extending those provisions? The bill must include clear language on this issue.
- 4. The bill language must provide clarity for small businesses regarding paid family and medical leave (FMLA). These employers can apply for an exemption through DOL from having to provide FMLA if it would jeopardize the businesses' ability to stay viable. It is not clear how lenient the Administration will be. There needs to be an upfront commitment from the Administration.
- 5. It excludes large companies, with staff in excess of 500, and its policy for paid sick leave rests totally with the companies' preexisting policies. According to the Department of Labor, 89% of workers at these companies have access to an average of 8 days which is below the 14-day guarantine protocol. The assumption is that companies will step up and provide additional time, but it's currently at the company's discretion. Essentially, not all policies are equal. The bill should not exclude holding big businesses responsible in ensuring the economic security of employees.
- ii. Long term: Advocate for 1) Strengthened OSHA standards to adequately respond to extreme circumstances such as the COVID-19 Outbreak; 2) Health Care for ALL; 3) We need more distributed, employee ownership now!

b. Healthcare workers

- i. **Short term:** Ensuring HR 6201 resolves several limitations:
 - 1. The bill does not provide expanded protections for workers on the frontline of this pandemic. It also needs to expand the definition of "first responders" to include healthcare workers, daycare providers, and even grocery store workers.
 - 2. Benefits should include: Expedited Testing; Access to Protective Equipment; and Financial incentives similar to "combat pay."
 - 3. There is no information about increased funding for protective equipment for medical providers and other health care workers, emergency personnel, and other essential personnel.
 - 4. The proposed mask liability cannot excuse or justify the use of subpar products that put providers and patients at greater risk.
- c. Workers without paid leave

- i. Short term: Advocate for 1) Provision of testing; 2) If infection is diagnosed, provision of quality treatment and quarantine in adherence with the standards of the Quarantine Bill of Rights referenced below. 3) Establishment of a system which allows workers without paid leave to still draw an income if they are unable to work due to the coronavirus, potentially through a mechanism such as the unemployment system. 4) While the Senate is working on an economic stimulus package to include in the Senate bill they should consider:
 - 1. Expanding unemployment insurance to workers who are idle during this period of self-containment and waive all waiting periods.
 - 2. Enact emergency paid sick leave programs that cover all workers in businesses of all sizes.
 - 3. Provide monetary financial support to small businesses/entrepreneurs/independent contractors.
- ii. Long term: Advocate for; 1) The establishment of a paid leave system for all workers. Support HR 1185 (FAMILY Act) which would provide up to 12 weeks of partial pay for family health emergencies, including pregnancy and childbirth recovery; the serious health condition of a child, parent, spouse or domestic partner; the birth or adoption of a child; and/or for particular military caregiving and leave purposes.; 2) Health care for ALL.

d. Gig economy workers

- i. Short term: Advocate for 1) Access to training, equipment, and supplies to minimize exposure/contact with the virus. 2) Provision of testing; 3) If infection is diagnosed, provision of quality treatment and quarantine in adherence with the standards of the Quarantine Bill of Rights referenced below. 4) Establishment of a system that allows workers without paid leave to still draw an income if they are unable to work due to the coronavirus, potentially through a mechanism such as the unemployment system.
- ii. Long term: Advocate for: Health Care for ALL.

IV. Democracy

- a. **Census**—Advocate for: 1) Extensive training of outreach workers on safety, sanitation, and health measures; 2) Ensure the data collection for the Census through online and telephone enumeration, extend voting hours, and minimize large gatherings.
- b. **Primaries**—Advocate for: 1) Extension of voting hours; 2) Thorough cleaning of all surfaces of polling places including cleaning of each booth between each voter; 3) Staggering of voting periods and amount of people in each period to minimize lines in close quarters; 4) Provision of thorough training of poll workers; 5) Explore alternate means of voting to ensure safe, universal participation, including the possibility of drive-thru voting similar to how ATM machines are set up, having voting booths.
- c. **Political gatherings**—Advocate for: 1) Minimization and/or cancellation of all large gatherings; 2) Explore models for virtual town hall meetings via social media and otherwise until the outbreak is contained.

V. Toxic Cleaning Materials

a. **Short Term:** Advocate for: 1) Agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and others to emphasize non-toxic cleaning products; 2) Businesses, including airlines, transportation companies, etc. be required to only provide non-toxic cleaning products for worker usage.

b. Long Term: Significantly increase the stringency of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory and maintain thorough monitoring and enforcement.

VI. Schools (Exposure as well as Education, Meal, and Housing Interruption)

- a. Exposure—Advocate for: 1) Equal standards of sanitation, safety, and health in all schools; 2) Training of all school personnel and students on healthy practices; 3) Provision of equipment and supplies necessary to maintain health and safety standards; 4) Routine testing when kits become available; 5) Execution of appropriate containment processes if an infection is discovered, while ensuring the centering of equity, justice, dignity, safety, and health.
- b. Loss of free meals for low income students—Advocate for provision of food assistance to families enrolled in the free meal program via mobile delivery, food vouchers, or some other mechanism.
- c. Housing insecurity for students dependent on university housing—Advocate for establishment of a system by which students can register for housing assistance through Stafford Act provisions.
- d. Education Interruption—Advocate for: 1) Education continuity to the highest standard possible in the event of the need for school closure due to infection or risk. 2) Establishment of alternative means of education that are accessible to all and of comparable quality to the in-classroom experience.

Furthermore, we must advocate to ensure that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (HR 6201) resolves several limitations:

- i. This bill does not include provisions tied to technology and student learning, a gap that must be addressed.
- ii. Many schools do not yet have access to or are not yet using technology in ways that can improve learning on a daily basis. Many homes in low-income and rural communities do not have the necessary technology. Teachers must be trained and supported as well.
- iii. Supporting learners in using technology for out of school learning experiences is often a missed opportunity. This underscores the need to accelerate and scale up adoption of effective approaches and technologies. With schools being closed, now is the time.
- iv. There's a full package of needs that must be addressed for quality distance learning: Access to high-speed internet, broadband in your community first; platforms to engage classes remotely with appropriate functionality for learning; resources to set up infrastructure, both internal and external; and technical assistance/support for setting up and using the tools.
- v. For many, on-line instruction may not be possible in the short run because of all the resources it requires. More than 917,000 households in NYC, or 29%, lack broadband digital access. Using printed materials and phone calls, the old-fashioned way, will be necessary for many students in the short term.
- vi. The National Education Technology Plan is the education technology policy document for the United States, a plan that can at least serve as a starting point to address the digital divide and the digital use divide.

VII. **Testing and Care Access**

- a. Advocate for funding to ensure an effective health infrastructure including health departments and the US Public Health Service whose role is critical for responding to urgent and ongoing challenges to the public's health and promoting health for us all.
- b. Advocate that as testing kits become available, vulnerable groups/populations are prioritized for testing and care.
- c. Prioritize under-resourced facilities to ensure limited hospital supplies are equitably distributed

Quarantine Policies and Practices VIII.

a. Advocate for the establishment and enforcement of a Quarantine Bill of Rights that sets forth conditions by which one can be remitted into guarantine, the conditions of guarantined, and the criteria for release while centering equity, justice, dignity, safety, health, comfort, and self-determination throughout the continuum. Included in this bill of rights should be the following excerpted from an Open Letter to Mike Pence from Legal and Health Experts— "Individuals must be empowered to understand and act upon their rights. Information should be provided on the justification of any mandatory restrictions as well as how and where to appeal such decisions. They should be afforded procedural due process, including universal access to legal counsel, to ensure their claims of discrimination or of hazardous conditions associated with their confinement are adjudicated."

IX. **Restrictive Immigration Policies and Practices**

a. Advocate for: 1) Establishment of sanctuary municipalities and states; 2) Repeal of the travel ban; 3) Repeal of the restrictions on provision of healthcare to immigrants; 4) Improved conditions at the border in accordance with stringent public health standards.

Χ. **Denial and Misinformation Impacts**

- a. Short term: 1) Advance a counter-narrative/vigilant refuting of misinformation and replacing with science-based facts. Advocate for federal, state, and local officials to only present factual information to the public.
- b. Longer term: 1) Advance litigation for willful misleading of the public for political gain while jeopardizing the wellbeing of the nation.

Questions we must ask ourselves as implications of this outbreak continue to unfold:

- 1. How are we managing the mental health toll of extreme anxiety and fear?
 - a. Mental Health Professionals are Preparing for an Epidemic of Anxiety Around the Coronavirus—Mother Jones
- 2. Flooding and tornado season is upon us. What are the implications given compounded impact on vulnerable communities that are also often in the flood plains or have poor drainage systems, or fragile housing stock? What about the impacts on the practices of large, confined gatherings of people in shelters and disaster recovery centers?
- 3. How do we maintain rigorous grassroots mobilization on other fronts of struggle amidst the coronavirus crisis?
- 4. In addition to Federal relief, how do we anticipate and begin to mitigate against the shocks to the economy that will inevitably hit the most vulnerable communities and population groups first and worst?

5. How do we begin a conversation around the connection between viruses like COVID-19, antibiotic resistance, factory farming, globalized industry, and habitat destruction from rapid urbanization?

Promising Emerging Equity Based Demands:

I. General Demands and Guidance

- a. Demands from Grassroots Organizers Concerning COVID-19
- b. Open Letter to Vice President Pence by Public Health and Legal Experts—Achieving A Fair and Effective COVID-19 Response: An Open Letter to Vice-President Mike Pence, and Other Federal, State, and Local Leaders from Public Health and Legal Experts in the United States
- c. Calls for a Just Recovery Response to COVID-19 that Centers The Most Vulnerable— Climate Justice Alliance
- d. Five Principles of Just COVID-19 Relief and Stimulus
- e. Emergency Justice In Response to COVID-19—Got Green
- f. National Nurses United Guidance
- g. Distant But Together: Responding to COVID-19—Amnesty International
- h. Social Justice in a time of Social Distancing—The Design Studio for Social Intervention
- i. Emergency organizational sign on letter around coronavirus—New Florida Majority
- i. Atlanta NAACP: What we want from Gov. Kemp—Atlanta Daily World
- k. LA Social Justice Response to COVID19 Pandemic—Healthy L.A. Coalition

П. Racism/Xenophobia/Stigma

- a. Coronavirus and Racism: Take Precautions to Fight Discrimination—Society for Human Resource Management
- b. More than 200 civil rights groups demand Congress publicly reject coronavirus racism— **NBC News**
- c. Statement on the Coronavirus Emergency, Official Response and its Impacts on Communities of Color—Race Forward
- d. National Demands for COVID 19—Movement for Black Lives
- e. Democratic Lawmakers Call For Racial Data In Virus Testing—AP
- f. Maryland Lawmakers Urge Release of Racial Data on Virus—NBC Washington
- q. A Black Woman is Leading the Charge to Create a Vaccine for the Coronavirus—Because of Them We Can
- h. How to Stay Healthy and Show Up for Racial Justice in the Face of COVID-19—SURJ Bay Area

III. **Vulnerable Populations**

- a. Race/Ethnicity--African American Population
 - i. US Government is urged to release race and ethnicity date on COVID-19 cases— Washington Post
 - ii. Lawmakers call for racial data in coronavirus testing—Associated Press

b. Housing Insecurity

- i. Coronavirus prompts Board of Correction to call for release of inmates from NYC iails—NY Daily News
- ii. HUD Urged to Make Tenant Income Adjustments Automatic by April 1—Shelterforce

- iii. How to Head Off a Coronavirus Housing Crisis—CityLab
- iv. Rent Strike Nation—The New Republic
- v. Boston Council Approves (Largely Symbolic) Call For Rent And Mortgage Moratorium—WBUR
- vi. Towards an Emergency Housing Response to COVID-19 in Georgia—Georgia Housing and Legal Scholars

c. Utilities

- i. Michigan Must Restore Water to All Homes During COVID-19 Crisis—Natural Resources Defense Council
- ii. 43 Groups Urge Additional Water Affordability Measures in Baltimore Amidst COVID-19—Food & Water Watch

d. LGBTQ Health and Wellbeing

i. Open Letter About Coronavirus And the LQBTQ+ Communities: Over 100 Organizations Ask Media & Health Officials to Weigh Added Risk

e. Transit/Transportation

- i. APTA Letter to Congressional Leaders on Emergency Funding for COVID-19— American Public Transportation Association
- ii. Release: Over 200 transit agencies, cities, and organizations urge Congress to pass emergency funding for transit—Transportation for America

f. Criminal Justice

- i. Justice Organizations Call on California Gov. Newsom to Act Now To Reduce State Prison COVID-19 Risks—The Justice Collaborative
- ii. New Orleans public defenders request the release of all non-violent offenders in jail due to coronavirus—The Lens
- iii. Humanity Not Cages: Demanding a Just and Humane Response to Outbreak—Color of Change

g. Immigration/Immigrant Rights

i. Open Letter to ICE from Medical Professionals Urging the Release of Individuals in Immigration Detention Given the Risk of COVID-19-- New York Lawyers for the Public Interest Medical Providers Network and Doctors for Camp Closure

IV. Testing/Treatment/Care

- a. #NoBodylsDisposable Campaign Against Discrimination in Triage
- b. Battling a Global Pandemic Requires More Medical Providers, Opening More Residency Slots Can Help

V. Workers' Rights

- a. Every Food and Delivery Strike Happening Now-The Cut
- b. Amazon, Instacart Grocery Delivery Workers Strike for Coronavirus Protection and Pay— **NPR**
- c. General Electric Workers Launch Protest. Demand to Make Ventilators—Vice
- d. 'This is not a playing matter': Perdue plant employees walk out over COVID-19 concerns— 13 WMAZ
- e. <u>Drivers Say Uber and Lyft Are Blocking Unemployment Pay</u>—NY Times
- f. Letter Carriers Sav the Postal Service Pressured Them to Deliver Mail Despite Coronavirus Symptoms — and Often Without Hand Sanitizer—ProPublica
- g. Citing coronavirus, labor coalition demands 15 days paid sick leave, triple the city mandate—Chicago Sun Times

- h. Pittsburgh garbage collectors strike for protective equipment, hazard pay amid coronavirus: reports—Penn Live Patriot-News
- i. Detroit Bus Drivers Win Protections Against Virus Through Strike—Labor Notes
- j. Hospitality workers derail New Orleans coronavirus news update—WWL TV
- k. Green Jobs Are the Answer to the Coronavirus Recession—The New Republic

VI. **Democracy**

- a. How the government will track \$500B in bailout funds—Politico
- b. Aviation Bailout Sign On Letter—Center for Biological Diversity
- c. Chicago Groups Advance Chicago Coronavirus COVID-19 People's Action Plan (link forthcoming)
- d. A Moderate Proposal: Nationalize the Fossil Fuel Industry—The New Republic

VII. **Restrictive Immigration Policies and Practices**

- a. ACLU Sues ICE For Release of Immigrants Especially Vulnerable to COVID-19—ACLU
- b. Social Distancing Is Not an Option for People in Prison and ICE Detention—YES! Magazine
- c. ICE detainees go on hunger strike in N.J amid coronavirus fears, lawyers say—NJ.com
- d. ICE Detainee Says Migrants Are Going on a Hunger Strike for Soap-ProPublica
- e. Women in ICE Detention, Fearing Coronavirus, Make Video to Protest Unsafe Conditions— The Intercept

Equity in Action--General

- a. Power to the People: 40+ Grassroots Activists Step Up During the COVID-19 Crisis— Colorlines
- b. 12 Coronavirus Funds That Will Help the Most Vulnerable—The Nation

I. Vulnerable Populations

- c. Low Income Communities—Food Assistance
 - i. Mayor Jenny Durkan Announces \$5 Million in Grocery Vouchers for Families Impacted by COVID-19—City of Seattle
 - ii. Local Nonprofit Martha's Table Rolls Out Unprecedented Level of Support for D.C. Communities Amid Coronavirus Outbreak
 - iii. Baltimore City Hires Squeegee Kids To Distribute Meals During COVID-19 Pandemic—CBS Baltimore
 - iv. Food Supply Anxiety Brings Back Victory Gardens—NY Times
 - v. White Bird Teams Up with NAACP to Serve Free Meals to the Hungry—KEZI News (Portland, OR)

d. Low Income Communities—Utilities

- i. How utility, phone and internet companies are giving consumers a break during coronavirus pandemic—USA Today
- ii. Birmingham Water Works to Halt Service Disconnections due to Coronavirus
- iii. Housing and Disconnection Policy Responses to COVID-19—Energy Efficiency for ΑII

iv. Whitmer orders that homes' water service be restored amid COVID-19 pandemic— The Detroit News

e. Low Income Communities—Housing Insecurity/Rent/Mortgage Relief

- i. Portable sinks being placed around Atlanta so homeless can wash hands—Fox 5
- ii. Citing coronavirus, homeless families seize 12 vacant homes in L.A.: 'We have to do this'—LA Times
- iii. Multiple cities suspend evictions during coronavirus crisis (Denver, Seattle, San Francisco and San Antonio, New York State)—The Hill
- iv. U.S. cities temporarily ban evictions as coronavirus outbreak worsens (San Jose, Miami-Dade County, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia)—MarketWatch
- v. Residential evictions in New Orleans suspended through April in light of coronavirus threat—The Lens
- vi. NC Courts stop evictions and foreclosures as part of coronavirus response—The Charlotte Observer
- vii. New York Suspends Mortgage Payments For Those Facing Financial Hardship—
- viii. U.S. Orders Up To A Yearlong Break On Mortgage Payments—NPR
- ix. Bexar County to halt evictions during coronavirus outbreak—San Antonio Express News
- x. Detroit will monitor homeless in shelters, suspend evictions and foreclosures amid virus outbreak—Fox 2 Detroit
- xi. California is renting hotel rooms and RVs to protect the homeless from coronavirus— Fast Company
- xii. Coronavirus: San Jose moves forward with moratorium on evictions, proposes financial aid for small businesses—The Mercury News
- xiii. California governor announces deal with most major banks to waive residential mortgage payments for 90 days—Business Insider
- xiv. Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly halts home and business evictions during coronavirus threat—The Wichita Eagle

f. Transit/Transportation

i. King County Metro and Sound Transit temporarily suspend fare enforcement amid COVID-19 outbreak—Seattle PI

q. Criminal Justice

- i. Baltimore State's Attorney Mosby to stop prosecuting drug possession, prostitution, other crimes amid coronavirus—Baltimore Sun
- ii. L.A. County courts to shut down for several days amid coronavirus spread—Los Angeles Times
- iii. Cook County courts to pause for nearly a month as precaution against coronavirus— Chicago Tribune
- iv. Facing growing coronavirus threat, Illinois prison officials release moms jailed with their babies: 'Oh my goodness, there was no words'-Chicago Tribune
- v. New York to release 300 nonviolent Rikers inmates amid pandemic—The Hill
- vi. L.A. County releases 1,700 inmates from jail early to prevent coronavirus outbreak behind bars—Los Angeles Daily News
- vii. To Prevent Coronavirus Spread, New Jersey Authorizes Major Jail Release—The Appeal

- viii. US jails begin releasing prisoners to stem Covid-19 infections—BBC
- ix. Applauding Release of Prisoners in Ohio Due to Coronavirus Threat, ACLU Calls on Officials Nationwide to Do the Same—Common Dreams

h. Gender

i. 'Women Will Not Be Forced to Be Alone When They Are Giving Birth'—NY Times

Disability Rights

i. How Disabled Activists Are Fighting Isolation, Collectively—In These Times

LGBTQ

i. The Trans Response to Coronavirus: Taking Action—NY Public Radio

k. Small Business

- i. In New York, the city plans to offer no-interest loans to small businesses with fewer than 100 employees that could show a 25 percent reduction in sales since the outbreak, and grants of as much as \$6,000 for businesses with fewer than five employees.—NY Times
- ii. What the Renewables Industry Wants From the Next Stimulus Bill-Greentech Media

I. Student Loans

i. Offering Model to Nation Battling Outbreak, New York AG Suspends All Medical and Student Debt Collection—Common Dreams

Workers' Rights II)

- a. D.C. Council passes bill offering assistance for workers, businesses in wake of coronavirus—Washington Business Journal
- **b.** Amazonians United Wins PTO for all Amazon Workers
- c. UFCW announces pay increase, benefits for Pennsylvania coronavirus front-line workers— ABC 27 News
- d. Target Spends \$300 Million To Give Raises. Paid Leave To Workers—Forbes
- e. For the first time, Uber drivers and other gig workers will qualify for unemployment insurance as part of the Senate's \$2 trillion coronavirus stimulus bill—Business Insider
- f. Union agreement with AT&T is a model for shared economic progress in coronavirus crisis—USA Today
- g. Target, Costco and more stores to close Easter Sunday to give employees a break-WJLA
- h. Grocery Workers Win Hazard Pay—Organizing Work

III) **Democracy**

- a. The Board of Elections in Erie County, which is home to Buffalo and nearly 300,000 registered voters, announced it was opening absentee voting to all voters countywide in April's presidential primary.
- b. Nevada's primary election will be conducted entirely by mail—CNN
- c. Which states are changing their primaries over coronavirus—Politico

IV) **Testing and Care Access**

- a. Seattle Health Care System Offers Drive-Through Coronavirus Testing For Workers—NPR
- b. Maryland to turn vehicle emissions sites into drive-through virus test centers—The Washington Post
- c. Baltimore to turn downtown convention center, hotel into field hospital amid coronavirus pandemic—Baltimore Sun

Restrictive Immigration Policies and Practices V.

a. ICE Must Release 10 Chronically III Immigrants After A Judge Said They're Not Safe From The Coronavirus While In Custody—Buzzfeed News

CORONAVIRUS MANGEMENT RESOURCES

- 1) Coronavirus-How to Protect Yourself (World Economic Forum)
- 2) Get Your Household Ready (CDC)
- 3) Everything You Need to Know About Getting Tested for Coronavirus (PoliSci)
- 4) Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients (CDC)
- 5) Coronavirus 101 (World Health Organization)
- 6) How to Quarantine Yourself (New York Times)
- 7) Coronavirus Map (NBC News)
- 8) State Action on Coronavirus (COVID-19) (National Conference of State Legislatures)
- 9) Seventeen Best Natural Cleaning Products (NY Magazine)
- 10) COVID-19 Racial Equity & Social Justice Resources—Racial Equity Tools
- 11) COVID-19 Emergency Tenant Protections Map (Anti-Eviction Mapping Project)
- 12) Coronavirus and Housing/Homelessness (NLIHC)
- 13) COVID-19 and Homelessness: Strategies for Schools, Early Learning Programs, and Higher Education Institutions (SchoolHouse Connection)
- 14) State Response Tracker (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners)
- 15) Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers (CDC)
- 16) Supporting Students During COVID-19: The #RealCollege Guide (for College, Community, and Justice)
- 17) How the Education Field is Responding: A Roundup of COVID-19 Resources (National College Attainment Network)
- 18) Resources for K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs (CDC)
- 19) Resources for Community and Faith Based Leaders (CDC)
- 20) COVID-19 (Coronavirus): What You Need to Know in Corrections (National Commission on Correctional Health Care)
- 21) Coronavirus/COVID-19 Resources for Artists (Springboard for the Arts)
- 22) COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and Arts Funding: Update and action items (Grantmakers in the Arts)
- 23) List of Arts Resources During the COVID-19 Outbreak (Creative Capital)
- 24) Caring Across Distance: Some Things to Consider Before Movement Gatherings During COVID-19 (Healing Justice)
- 25) Preparing for Coronavirus Crisis: As Organizers, It's Time to Do What We Do Best—Bay Rising
- 26) Principles for Ethical Cancellation—Springboard for the Arts
- 27) Mental Health and Coping During COVID-19 (CDC)
- 28) Taking Care of Your Mental Health in the Face of Uncertainty (AFSP)
- 29) State Policies on Paid Family and Sick Leave (Kaiser Family Foundation)
- 30) Dangers and Opportunities in the Coronavirus Epidemic
- 31) Collective Care Is Our Best Weapon against COVID-19
- 32) Deep Narratives for Coronavirus (The Narrative Initiative)
- 33) BONUS TRACK—Vietnam Government's Catchy Coronavirus Educational Video (Euronews)

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