

## **LULAC Priorities for COVID-19 Relief Package IV**

- **Healthcare**

- Free COVID-19 testing and treatment to anyone who needs it.
- In addition to covering the cost of COVID-19 testing, cover/ subsidize the cost of treatment.
- Dedicate funding to support and ensure the availability of bilingual health care staff who are asked to provide interpretation services and communicate directly with limited-English proficiency (LEP) populations in health care settings that are responding to COVID-19.
- Suspend Social Security and Medicaid redeterminations, terminations, and reductions. With the announcement of Social Security Field Offices closing for in-person services, Congress must require that SSA suspend all continuing disability reviews and terminations.
- Increase Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) by 10% but no less than 8%.

- **Immigration**

- Ensure health/economic protections/responses are inclusive of the undocumented community.
- Ensure that regardless of immigration status everyone has the opportunity to be tested and treated for COVID-19
- Ensure health care facilities will be “immigration enforcement-free zones” for the duration of the outbreak.
- No enforcement funds for DHS/ICE/CBP.
- End ICE raids
- Release immigration detainees.
- Close all immigration courts.
- Restore the Affordable Care Act access for DACA recipients.
- Direct the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency to issue automatic extension/renewals of Employment Authorization Documents (work permits) that expire this year.
- Provide TPS for frontline workers who are undocumented

- **Economy**

- Paid sick and family leave for everyone who needs it.
- Direct cash assistance to households, regardless of immigration status.
- Any relief to financial institutions should be contingent upon and proportionate to the direct relief they provide to their borrowers and customers for the duration of the crisis.
- Cease the following activities for at least three months: all referrals to debt collectors or sales to debt buyers, all new and existing court filings, garnishments, offsets, repossessions and other ways to seize or deprive the consumer of the use or benefit of wages, income, government payments, bank accounts, cars and other household assets, and any other enforcement actions or adverse actions.
- A national moratorium on medical debt collection

**Housing:**

- A moratorium on foreclosures and also evictions for nonpayment of rent by tenants impacted for at least 90 days.
- Shut-offs of water, gas, electricity, sewage service, telecommunication services, and broadband should be suspended during the emergency.
- A moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for renters and homeowners should be put in place for at least 6 months or the duration of the crisis if longer. The moratorium should cover manufactured homes whether titled as real or personal property and should prohibit evictions in manufactured homes communities. The moratorium should not apply to vacant or abandoned properties.
- Emergency funding should be provided to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- **Small Business:**
  - Small business credit programs to ensure they meet payroll and stay in business.
  - Moratorium on payment on small business loans with no fees, penalties or impact on one's credit.
  - Establish a temporary small business loan program designed to address shortfalls in revenue by offering interest-free loans to small businesses. The program will be deployed through a network of trusted non-profit organizations and CDFIs.
  - Provide grants for community-based organizations serving underserved communities that are serving as technical assistance providers for the provision of client disaster recovery services. Many small businesses, particularly disadvantaged businesses are unsure how to maneuver in this environment and seeking TA and advice on how best to move forward.
  - Any proposals aimed at providing relief or capital for businesses or industries should specifically provide for similar relief and capital for small businesses and a mechanism for providing relief or cash payments to the employees of these businesses or industries and to workers who participate in today's gig economy.
- **Farmworkers**
  - Support policies to prevent ICE enforcement measures at all sensitive locations, including expanding access to law enforcement assistance and court services without fear of repercussions from federal immigration enforcement.
  - Provide assurances that existing H-2A visas will remain valid for farm workers currently in the US to complete agricultural labor contracts.
  - Dedicated investments in rural health care, including but not limited to increased funding for migrant health centers and rural hospitals, as well as health care infrastructure such as broadband to support telehealth services and medical equipment.
  - Ensure farmworkers can feed their own families by removing eligibility restrictions for nutrition assistance, including the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
  - Relax requirements for individuals to be able to receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) without having to prove that they are participating in a work activity or doing the daily employment applications at job centers, including job centers specifically established for farmworkers.
- **Workers Protections**

- All working people who are sick, who are affected by quarantine orders or who are responsible for caring for children whose schools have been closed should have job protection and paid sick leave for a minimum of 14 days.
- Federal and state funding must be targeted to worker safety and health training on infectious disease control; adequate personal protective equipment and fitting; emergency response and preparedness; and other workplace-specific training that equips our working people with the tools we need during this crisis and for the future.
- Workers need many more inspectors and health specialists from OSHA to combat the crisis.
- Any targeted assistance to private companies must meet the following tests:
  - All companies getting assistance must offer 14 days of paid sick leave and comply with worker safety standards for infectious disease.
  - All companies getting assistance must maintain current workforce levels and current wages and benefits.
- **Puerto Rico**
  - Direct the Financial Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) to allow the Government of Puerto Rico to use the more than \$9 billion in funds destined for debt payments to instead be used to support Puerto Rican families in this moment of crisis;
  - Ensure free testing and healthcare services;
  - Institute a moratorium on evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs;
  - Ensure everyone has access to food;
  - Provide school children with the tools necessary to continue their education from home;
  - Make significant investments in clean, local, sustainable energy sources to stabilize service for millions.
- **Education**
  - All collections on federal student loans, including offsets against or seizures of Social Security benefits and other federal or state payments, tax refunds, wages, and other forms of involuntary collection should cease.
  - Moratoriums on student loans and other consumer debt payments and collection, followed by eventual affordable repayment plans.
  - Student loan borrowers should continue to receive credit for any forgiveness programs they are working towards.
  - Broad universal debt forgiveness should be provided for all federal student loan borrowers (including PLUS loan borrowers) with a guaranteed minimum of \$20,000 to ensure the benefits of cancellation reach the lowest income and most vulnerable borrowers.
  - Students who were defrauded by schools such as Corinthian or ITT Tech and have pending claims before the Department of Education should also receive immediate relief.
- **Democracy and Voting**
  - Ensure officials take into consideration accessibility for voters who have historically faced barriers to the ballot.

- Provide additional funding to upgrade election infrastructure for the Election Assistance Commission and State and local jurisdictions to address additional administrative and health and safety burdens created by COVID-19.
- Ensure any package addressing election assistance requires states to adopt a number of practices, including:
  - An extend early in-person voting period (allowing citizens to vote over an expanded period rather than in a cluster on Election Day);
  - No-excuse absentee voting by mail (including a number of options through which to request and return ballots);
  - Expanded voter registration option (including online voter registration and same-day registration);
  - Prohibition of polling place adjustments that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations such as people of color, limited-English proficient citizens, and students; and
  - Voter education (informing the public of new practices and immediately quashing disinformation as it arises).
- Authorization of national vote by mail if a national emergency remains in effect.
- Provide additional funding to the Census Bureau to ensure that field workers are protected going into hard-to-count, vulnerable communities.
- Ensure that Census Bureau officials take into consideration accessibility for hard-to-count communities, unduly harmed by the COVID-19 crisis.