



# Building Community Resilience Through Equitable Policy and Systems

May 2020

## Health and Health Care

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Short-Term Ask</i>	<i>Long-Term Reward</i>	<i>Federal Resources / Policy Lever</i>
COVID-19 Testing	<p>Ensure adequate testing resources are deployed to communities most impacted.</p> <p>Support the organizations providing testing in these neighborhoods, so they are financially stable.</p> <p>Administer testing and treatment in high risk areas, such as nursing homes, community care centers, and psychiatric wards.</p>	<p>Safety net health care institutions are financially stable.</p>	<p><a href="#">Funds</a> flowing to health departments from CDC (known as the Epi and Lab Capacity/Reopen America fund) could be directed to focus testing and contact tracing in the hardest hit areas - controlling COVID-19 in high-risk settings and protect vulnerable or high-risk populations.</p> <p>State and Local stabilization <a href="#">funds</a> might also be used for this purpose (Section 5001 of the CARES Act- for “necessary expenditures incurred as a result of the public health emergency”).</p> <p>Create an equity task force to guide this work. For example, <a href="#">Louisiana</a> is using \$500,000 to set up a Health Equity Task Force. The funds are coming from philanthropic sources, but could also potentially be drawn from the federal funds.</p>
Health Care Access	<p>Expand Medicaid to ensure all are able to access free testing and treatment for COVID-19, as well as treatment for existing chronic diseases, which are risk factors for COVID-19.</p>	<p>Health outcomes improve with people accessing the care they need, and health care institutions are more financially stable.</p>	<p>Utilize 1115, 1135 waivers and State Plan Amendments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure 12 months continuous eligibility for children;</li> <li>○ defer redeterminations;</li> <li>○ allow presumptive eligibility;</li> <li>○ consider waiver to provide temporary housing so homeless individuals can isolate;</li> <li>○ create disaster relief fund to cover uncompensated care;</li> <li>○ automatic re-enrollment for recently removed persons.</li> </ul>
PPE Access	<p>Provide free PPE (including cleaning supplies and education about how to use PPE) to neighborhood “essential businesses” and residents in neighborhoods with high rates of disease.</p>	<p>Residents and businesses are prepared to stop the spread of future disease.</p>	<p>Additional funds via the Community Services Block Grant and Community Development Block Grant could be used to purchase and provide PPE/cleaning supplies to CBOs.</p> <p>CCDBG Quality Funds can be used by ECE providers to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies and prepare to safely operate ECE sites (such as increased spacing during nap time, etc).</p>
Behavioral Health Care Access	<p>Provide access to culturally competent mental health services and grief services</p>	<p>Residents have improved mental health and sustained access to behavioral health</p>	<p>Utilize Medicaid waiver authorities to ensure tele-health is an option (including lifting restrictions on group counseling).</p>

	during and after the pandemic.  Fund at least one school psychologist or social worker for every three school buildings in every district.	services for prevention and treatment.	Work with Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (Places for People, \$2M award from CARES Act) to ensure most vulnerable populations are accessing treatment.  Utilize CSBG funds to provide outreach and connect individuals with needed services.
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<b>Economic Support</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Short-Term Ask</b>	<b>Long-Term Reward</b>	<b>Federal Resources / Policy Lever</b>
Accessing Stimulus Checks	Provide resources to agencies and coalitions working in communities to assist the “unbanked” in receiving their stimulus checks.  Assist “non-filers” in accessing their checks.  Provide additional stimulus payments to low-income households.	More citizens are connected to banks and can begin to build financial capital and credit long-term.	CSBG funds can be used for this purpose and most Community Action Agencies should already have a VITA tax prep clinic that might be repurposed.  Executive Action related to prohibiting garnishment of stimulus checks by financial institutions (see, e.g. <a href="https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Garnishments-4.29.20.pdf">https://governor.maryland.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Garnishments-4.29.20.pdf</a> ).
Financial Relief	Develop financial systems to relieve the debt burden people are accumulating by delaying rent, mortgage and utility payments.  Increase short-term financial relief, such as available unemployment funds.  Provide funding for attorney fees to address concerns over real estate and renters mortgage once temporary forbearances are lifted.	People will be able to recover more quickly from the financial fallout, ensuring this financial setback does not impact families for generations like other economic disasters have in our history.	CDBG funds can be used for “Public Services,” which can include up to 3 months of support for rent, utilities, housing payments, food, etc. The CAREs Act lifts the normal 15% cap on CDBG funds going toward “Public Services.”  CSBG funds could also potentially be used for this purpose and eligibility was expanded to 200% FPL.  HUD received \$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants. Of that \$4 billion, \$2 billion are to be distributed to grantees using the same statutory formula used to distribute the regular, annual FY20 ESG allocations. The remaining balance of \$2 billion must be used for the benefit of unsheltered homeless, sheltered homeless, and those at risk of homelessness, to geographical areas with the greatest need based on factors to be determined by the secretary, such as risk of transmission of coronavirus, high numbers or rates of sheltered and unsheltered homeless, and economic and housing market conditions.
Small Business Capital	Ensure local banks are assisting Black-owned businesses and	Black-owned businesses and others have stronger	CDBG funds could be applicable here, particularly in setting up outreach/support.

	other small businesses in receiving stimulus funds available to them.	relationships with banks to access future capital.	Banks could also use Community Reinvestment Act funding to do this work.
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<b>Youth Development</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Short-Term Ask</b>	<b>Long-Term Reward</b>	<b>Federal Resources / Policy Lever</b>
Youth Opportunities	Develop online opportunities for youth that include education, mentoring, recreation, and employment to prevent students from falling behind.	Youth will continue to develop a vision for their potential and be connected to resources to help make it happen.	<p>CARES Act education funds could be used for this purpose. The Education Stabilization fund is broadly flexible and efforts to support students during long-term closures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning and implementing activities during the summer and afterschool,</li> <li>○ Planning and coordinating meals,</li> <li>○ Online learning and other educational services,</li> <li>○ Purchasing technology,</li> <li>○ Mental health support</li> </ul> <p>Stabilization funds will flow to LEAs using the Title I formula.</p> <p>In addition, there is a Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund where the governor has discretionary to make grants to LEAs particularly impacted by COVID.</p>
Child Care Sustainability	Ensure federal dollars available to childcare providers reach them so they are there to support families now and in the future.	Families have access to affordable, quality childcare when they can return to work, making it possible for them to work.	<p>CARES included an additional \$3.5 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant, a significant increase to the FY 2020 appropriations total of \$5.826 billion. This funding is intended to support parents of young children whose participation in the workforce is of critical importance during this pandemic, such as health care employees, emergency responders, and sanitation workers, and importantly waives the requirement that they must make under 85% of state median income to qualify for child care assistance.</p> <p>Funding may be used to continue payments to providers in the case of decreased enrollment or closures, to ensure they are able to remain open or reopen, and providers are encouraged to use funds to continue paying staff.</p> <p>Lastly, these funds are available to any child care provider, not just those who were receiving CCDBG prior to the coronavirus</p> <p>States can also utilize CCDBG quality funds to pay for items related to increased sanitation and cleaning, including purchase of supplies.</p>

			<p>States can utilize Child Care Resource and Referral networks to provide information and guidance to providers in accessing small business loans and grants through the paycheck protection program, etc.</p> <p>Ounce of Prevention resources: <a href="https://www.theounce.org/covid-19-response/policy/cares-act/">https://www.theounce.org/covid-19-response/policy/cares-act/</a></p>
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<b>Essential Needs</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Short-Term Ask</b>	<b>Long-Term Reward</b>	<b>Federal Resources / Policy Lever</b>
Food Access	<p>Ensure all federal waivers and measures are in place to distribute food to families living in poverty.</p> <p>Support area food banks.</p> <p>Support local farms and gardens that promote access to fresh food for neighborhoods in food deserts.</p> <p>Provide other basic needs, like diapers, menstrual products, etc. in addition to food.</p>	<p>Long-term solutions for addressing food insecurity are built and developed, including the elimination of food deserts.</p>	<p>Federal waivers to consider: <a href="https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/nationwide-waivers-040820.pdf">https://frac.org/wp-content/uploads/nationwide-waivers-040820.pdf</a></p> <p>Federal nutrition funding cannot be spent for things like feminine products or diapers, but that could be a permissible use of CSBG funds.</p>
Technology Access	<p>Increase access to free internet hotspots in neighborhoods.</p> <p>Provide devices, such as tablets or computers, to students from low-income families</p>	<p>Ability to monitor and report on crime real-time.</p> <p>Ability to access online learning and employment on a long-term basis.</p>	<p>See section on education funding. CDBG or CSBG funds could also be potentially used for this purpose.</p>
Paid Sick Leave	<p>Offer health insurance and paid sick leave to all essential workers.</p>	<p>Workers are compensated with fair wages and given full benefits.</p>	<p>Requires new legislation.</p>
Community/Police Relations	<p>Train police officers to understand how COVID-19 may impact the trauma response of citizens, particularly overly policed populations, and how to manage their own trauma responses during COVID-19.</p>	<p>Officers begin to understand and undo the historic trauma of police brutality in Black communities, recognizing these patterns impact the safety of all, including officers.</p>	<p>CAREs included \$850 million through the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program. Funds will be allocated to states based on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants formula and generally can be used for the same purposes, including training.</p> <p>Funds will flow through the state and then to local governments (police departments).</p>

	Provide PPE to all police officers.		
Public Spaces and Transportation	Regularly clean and sanitize public spaces, including public transportation.	Government invests in public infrastructure, including public transportation, to meet the needs of its residents.	CARES Act <a href="#">provided</a> \$25 billion to the Department of Transportation. A majority of these funds are to be allocated to entities (e.g. Transit Authorities).  Funds can be used for increased cleaning and other safety measures.

## Vulnerable Populations

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Short-Term Ask</i>	<i>Long-Term Reward</i>	<i>Federal Resources / Policy Lever</i>
Language Access and Basic Needs for Immigrants	Provide Comprehensive Language Access Plans to ensure immigrants and non-English speakers can access resources.  Ensure services, including food assistance, rent/mortgage moratorium, testing, etc.) reach all members of our community, regardless of immigration status.	Health care and social service systems are more culturally competent and promote the health and well-being of all residents.	
Basic Needs for People Who are Unhoused	Provide individualized spaces for the unhoused to self-quarantine with access to running water during the outbreak.  Provide support to emergency shelters to ensure they can stay open for 24 hours a day.  Provide 3 meals a day and 24 hour access to soap, hand sanitizer, waters, showers, and restrooms for the unhoused.	People who are unhoused have safe places to live temporarily and the resources to seek stable, quality housing.	There may be a number of sources to support this: (1) State and Local stabilization <a href="#">funds</a> might also be used for this purpose (Section 5001 of the CARES Act- for “necessary expenditures incurred as a result of the public health emergency”). (2) HUD’s Emergency Solutions Grants can be used for this purpose. These funds will flow through the City, likely the Department of Housing. (3) CDBG might also be used to support these efforts  More resources: <a href="https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/covid-19-funding-flexibilities-and-waivers/">https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/covid-19-funding-flexibilities-and-waivers/</a>
Needs for Justice-Involved Individuals	Provide soap, running water, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, and necessary PPE at no cost to all those in detention	Justice-involved individuals are treated with dignity and respect and given resources to reintegrate into the	CARES Act provided \$100 million for the federal Bureau of Prisons to support increase sanitation and health protocols.  The legislation also required requires the BOP to offer free access to

	<p>facilities.</p> <p>Make phone calls, emails, and other forms of contact with loved ones available at no cost.</p> <p>Provide appropriate PPE and ongoing testing to all facility personnel.</p> <p>Ensure medical programs are fully staffed to test and treat detainees.</p>	community.	<p>phone and videoconferencing calls during the pandemic. The State and/or local jurisdictions could mandate the same.</p> <p>In addition, the Justice Assistance Grant awards through the Dept. of Justice could be used for this purpose by the state.  <a href="https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-18553">https://bja.ojp.gov/funding/opportunities/bja-2020-18553</a>)</p>
Needs for Individuals Living with Disabilities	<p>Ensure all quarantine areas are accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p> <p>Provide COVID-19 materials in accessible formats and sign language interpreters when needed.</p>	Society prioritizes the needs of people living with disabilities and creates spaces and resources that are accessible to all.	