

Urge Congress to Craft COVID-19 Legislation that Builds Equitable and Sustainable Communities



While the coronavirus has made all of us vulnerable to illness and financial stress, low-income communities and communities of color are suffering disproportionately. COVID-19 has exposed the systemic inequities in our current health, economic, social, and political systems.

Please contact your members of Congress. Thank them for the initial relief legislation that provided resources for heroic healthcare workers and immediate assistance to millions who lost their livelihoods and urge them to prioritize vulnerable individuals and communities as they craft additional COVID relief legislation.

The next round of legislation must include provisions which:

- Increase Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
- Provide additional support for homelessness assistance programs, USDA rural low-income housing programs, and emergency rental assistance for those in need;
- Extend expanded unemployment assistance;
- Expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC) and increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC);
- Ensure maximum flexibility for disbursement and implementation of Indian Country funds for addressing COVID-19.
- Release non-violent offenders and detained immigrants;
- Resume refugee and special immigrant admissions, and restore asylum protections;
- Expand access to testing, regardless of insurance or immigration status and ensure free and accessible treatment for all;
- Appropriate funds to ensure that US elections are safe and secure;
- Provide resources to communities historically and currently impacted by environmental injustice to address health risks caused by air and water pollution;
- Redirect a portion of the US military budget to reducing the threat of future global pandemics and the global climate crisis.

Finally, as we turn our attention from immediate relief to long-term recovery, invite Members of Congress to join us in building a more equitable and resilient society. A truly sustainable recovery will reduce risks to communities disproportionately vulnerable to health crises and economic disruption and address the looming global climate crisis that poses an existential threat to our livelihoods and lives.