NETWORK’s COVID-19 Response: Updates and Our Work Ahead

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#NETWORKWebinar @NETWORKLobby
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Overview

Today we will be discussing:
- Current COVID-19 State of Play
- Congressional Action
  - Package 1
  - Package 2
  - Package 3
- Requests for Package 4
- What you can do

There will be time for questions at the end. Remember to type your questions in the Q&A Box throughout the presentation!
State of Play

189,595 COVID-19 Cases

4,100 Deaths due to COVID-19
Economic State of Play

An unprecedented rise in unemployment

Source: US Employment and Training Administration
COVID-19 and Communities of Color

- Communities of color have been largely affected as a result of COVID-19
  - Higher mortality rates for People of Color
  - Lack of adequate resources to impoverished neighborhoods
  - Economic and employment hardships
  - Media placing blame for COVID-19 on the Asian population
  - Heightened Racism towards Asian Americans
  - Less access to quality healthcare facilities
Congressional Response

Congress has passed three COVID-19 emergency packages

1\textsuperscript{st} package: $8.3$ billion emergency funding package

2\textsuperscript{nd} package: Families First Coronavirus Response Act

3\textsuperscript{rd} package: Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act
Coronavirus Preparedness & Response Act

- Helps State, Local Governments & Tribes to Conduct Public Health Preparedness ($2.2 billion)
- Boosts Research & Development ($3 billion)
- Aids Healthcare Preparedness by funding medical supplies and equipment ($1 billion)
- Provides Telehealth Flexibility for Medicare
- Assistance for Families & Small Business including Extending LIHEAP & Mental Health Treatment
Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Free Testing for Coronavirus for those with Private Insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, VA, FEHBP & Tricare
- Strengthens Food Assistance Programs for Families and Seniors including support for food banks
- Safeguards Medicaid Benefits to expand coverage
- Enhances Unemployment Aid for laid off and furloughed workers
- Establishes Paid Leave for most workers should they get sick, need to take care of a family member or self isolate to prevent the spread of COVID-19
The CARES Act

- **Hospitals, Health Care Providers and Equipment** ($100 billion)
  - Includes $1.3 billion in emergency funds to Community Health Centers

- **Unemployment Insurance**
  - Includes Pandemic Assistance for 4 months for workers who normally do not receive unemployment, such as gig workers and the self-employed

- **Direct Support to Families**
  - $1,200 cash payments ($2,400 for joint filers) plus $500 per child
  - Must file 2018 or 2019 tax return
  - Parents must have Social Security Numbers
The CARES Act (cont.)

- **Assistance for the Homeless**
  - $7 billion in investments for affordable housing and homeless assistance programs

- **Small, Medium and Large Business**
  - Small, non-profits and self-employed can receive up to $10 million in loans
  - Medium & Large Business can receive loans but restricts use of loan for stock buybacks & excessive CEO compensation & requires maintaining employment
What’s Next? 4th COVID-19 Package

Congressional Leadership & President Trump beginning to discuss COVID 4.0

House of Representatives to Lead on Development of Package 4
4th COVID-19 Legislative Package Priorities

**Health**
- Increase Medicaid funding to states in order to pay for COVID treatment and expenses; increase funding for CHCs
- Ensure testing, treatment coverage for everyone uninsured including the undocumented and incarcerated
- Allow inmates to be eligible for Medicaid prior to release

**Democracy = Voting**
- Seek $2 billion in funding for the November elections to provide essential election security measures and comprehensive vote-by-mail accessibility
- Allow for absentee voting for all with pre-paid postage
4th COVID-19 Legislative Package Priorities

- **Immigration**
  - Ensure all have access to COVID cash benefits
  - Ensure extension of work permits for those with DACA and TPS
- **Food/Nutrition**
  - Expand SNAP allotments by 15%
- **Housing/Infrastructure**
  - Increase funding for affordability programs, renter’s relief tied mortgage forbearance, access to internet connectivity, and public transportation
- **Paid Leave**
  - Expand paid leave to for health care workers and emergency responders
Response to COVID-19

QUESTIONS?

We will answer questions that have been asked by our webinar participants and those joining us on Facebook Live!
Influencing Congress During COVID-19

- Members are Home!
  - Both the Senate and House are out, and policy work is happening
  - Congress Exploring Virtual Work & Voting

- Home Contact is Key

- Innovation
  - Virtual Lobbying in the Time of COVID
Next Steps

☀️ **Check out our resources** On COVID-19 on our website

☀️ **Sign up for in-district phone meetings with your Senators!**
[https://networklobby.org/meetingsignups/](https://networklobby.org/meetingsignups/)

☀️ **We’ll be back after Easter** with materials for your meetings!
COVID-19 and Communities of Color

Racial Justice Resources

- To Help Stem Coronavirus, Lift Sanctions on Iran," Common Dreams
- A Cornered Trump Scapegoats China, Inviting Racist Violence," In These Times
- Coronavirus: Fear of Asians rooted in long American history of prejudicial policies," UC Berkeley News
- "Public health expert says African Americans are at greater risk of death from coronavirus," The Undefeated
- "Latinos projected to bear economic brunt of coronavirus," The Hill
- "Coronavirus Compounds Inequality and Endangers Communities of Color," American Progress
- "Joint Center Convenes Black Organizations for COVID-19 Discussion with CBC Chair Karen Bass," Joint Center
- "Race and Ethnicity," Urban Institute
- "Stop Using The Coronavirus As An Excuse To Be Racist," Forbes
Thank you! Stay Safe and Healthy!

Questions? Email Meg Olson, Grassroots Mobilization Manager, Molson@networklobby.org