

WHAT WE CAN DO NOW

to Slow the Spread of the Pandemic in Our Most Vulnerable Communities



	What can my CITY/COUNTY do?	What can my STATE do?	What can the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT do?
TRUTH	Tell people to stay in their homes. Close restaurants, bars and non-essential businesses. No public gatherings. Work through Black and Spanish language radio, targeted social media, text alerts and faith institutions to get clear information to people in at-risk communities.	Governors and state public health officials should be talking publicly about the importance of equity in how the state is responding to the virus, and commit to prioritize the most vulnerable people and communities.	Be honest about the threat, that many of us will contract the virus and that without a commitment to equity those working at low-wage jobs and living in already neglected urban and rural communities will be most at-risk of widespread sickness and death.
TEST	Work with local hospitals and community health centers to set up neighborhood-based testing sites and door-to-door testing teams in vulnerable neighborhoods and testing in local jails and detention centers.	Provide funding, including Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funds from to safety-net hospitals and community health centers to create neighborhood-based testing sites and door-to-door testing teams in vulnerable neighborhoods.	Include a funding stream for neighborhood-based and door-to-door testing to Federally Qualified Health Centers and safety-net hospitals in the coronavirus emergency legislation.
TREAT	Act now, rather than waiting until its too late, to create more beds where people who become infected can be treated, including re-opening hospitals that have been closed, and converting other buildings into care centers.	Provide resources and support to local health departments and hospitals to create more treatment beds, with priority on getting supplies, personal protective equipment, training and additional staff to safety-net hospitals. Contingency planning for outbreaks at prisons and detention centers.	Include additional emergency funding for community health centers and safety-net hospitals in the coronavirus emergency legislation to so that they have the staff, personal protective equipment, ventilators, hospital beds and other supplies needed to treat vulnerable patients.
SUPPORT	Moratorium on evictions, foreclosures, and utility shut-offs; free breakfasts/lunches for children who receive them at school; release as many people as possible from jails, including anyone within 24 months of release date, incarcerated for a technical parole violation, pregnant, elderly or with a compromised immune system.	Provide universal family leave; declare moratorium on evictions, foreclosures and utility shut-offs; extend unemployment compensation; release as many people as possible from prison. Expand their Medicaid programs if they have not already done so.	Require paid sick and family leave for all workers at all firms without exception; stop ICE raids and release as many people as possible from detention, where they are most at risk; expand Medicaid and food stamps; make monthly payments to workers who depend on wage-income or are unemployed.