

COVID-19 Relief Messaging Guidance

APRIL 2020

This document summarizes topline campaign messages recommended for use in communication with policymakers, journalists, and the public. All partners should use the core message, along with any of the topline messages. You should also feel free to tailor any of the messages — including the specific wording of the core message — to suit your organization's communication strategy.

The messages are supported by a more extensive set of talking points aligned with the topline messages. But again, we encourage campaign partners to use the talking points that align with their organization's communication strategies and to tailor them accordingly.

Core Message

The COVID-19 public health crisis has shown us how interdependent we are: the health and prosperity of each of us depends on the health and prosperity of all of us. Tens of millions of people are out of work and struggling to pay their bills, but the four pieces of legislation negotiated between President Trump and Congress have excluded millions of immigrants and their families from health care and economic relief. Congress must pass additional relief legislation that is inclusive of immigrants and provides access to health and economic supports for all.

Other Topline Messages

- [Immigrants are on the front lines](#) of confronting COVID-19 in the [health care](#) sector,¹ [harvesting food](#),² delivering groceries and packages, and [caring for our loved ones](#).³ Immigrants and their families will continue to play a key role in the nation's recovery from this pandemic.
- Our policy responses at the federal, state, and local levels should reflect that reality and must be inclusive of and equitable for immigrants and their families.
- COVID-19 is disproportionately harming Black and Latinx communities, and the Trump administration's xenophobic attempts to distract from its ineffective response has sparked a wave of violent anti-Asian attacks across the country. We must stand together to reject this harmful rhetoric.
- An effective coronavirus response package must be inclusive of immigrants and will ensure we can all get the care we need. If immigrant families are unable to secure the health care they need, we are all at risk. Specifically, effective legislation will:
 - Ensure that immigrant families can get critical health services by:
 - Halting implementation of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. State Department public charge wealth test.

- Making health care available regardless of a person’s immigration status, income, or categorical eligibility, with COVID-19–related care covered through Medicaid.
- Adequately fund community health centers, free and charitable clinics, school-based health centers, and critical access hospitals, which are essential providers in many immigrant and low-income communities.
- Prohibit immigration enforcement at or near hospitals and other health care facilities.
- Ensure that health services, and information about COVID-19 and public programs is available in multiple languages and through trusted community providers, and provide funding for interpretation services.
- Ensure that families can adhere to social distancing and other prevention practices without compromising basics like food and shelter, by:
 - Making stimulus rebates available for everyone who files tax returns, whether they use a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.
 - Making immigrants eligible for nutrition assistance through programs such as the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) and extending the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program through the summer of 2020.
- We need Congress to ensure that everyone, regardless of where they were born, has access to economic support, health care, and other supports they need to thrive.

¹ <https://newamericaneconomy.github.io/coronavirusRisk/docs/>;
<https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/covid-19-immigrant-healthcare-workers/>.

² <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/immigrants-healthcare-metros>.

³ <https://data.newamericaneconomy.org/en/immigration-aging-workforce/>.