

Dear Members of Congress,

As you work to craft the next bill to address the COVID-19 crisis, we urge your support for bigger, regular direct payments to people until we reach full employment.

The CARES Act was an important first step, but there is more to be done to address the gaps and the deepening need. With tens of millions filing for unemployment over the past month, and analysts warning that the economic crisis is likely to last years, not months, Congress must take bold action. We are grateful to see that Speaker Pelosi has called for more direct cash payments and Leader Hoyer has called for monthly cash assistance and we need to ensure these remain a top priority and at a scale to do the most good for the most people in these uncertain times.

We urge you to provide [Emergency Money to the People](#) in any upcoming legislative package. This means bigger, regular payments to those who need it most, lasting until the economy recovers:

- **Bigger**– *\$1200 is not enough*: Many people struggled to pay rent or mortgage, plus other bills, on their paychecks alone before the pandemic. Now, millions of families are facing mounting bills and unprecedented job losses. Even as Americans patch together unemployment insurance and other benefits, they risk the inability to meet their basic needs -- and falling into economic distress. \$1200 in direct payments for adults and \$500 per child was a good start but simply not enough.
- **Regular**– *Delivered monthly*: Over the last month, workers across the country have lost jobs and income at historic rates. Some figured out a way to make their April 1 rent payments; but nearly [one third haven't](#). Without regular support, too many families are likely to be in the same unrelenting dilemma month after month. It makes sense to deliver cash support monthly, ensuring that families will have money as they face persistent hardship over the coming months.
- **Lasting**– *Until the economy recovers*: Ensuring that cash payments last as long as this economic crisis will help Americans get back on their feet, and help boost the economy. Hoping that Congress can authorize more payments when the need arises won't work and places too much hope in bipartisan cooperation on a continuing series of stimulus bills. There is a growing chorus of [support](#) for [regular payments](#) and [automatic stabilizers to trigger an end to payments](#) and to resume them when economic conditions worsen in the future.
- **Full inclusion**– *Don't leave anyone behind*: Congress should ensure that CARES Act payments reach those who need them. This means including immigrant workers and their families, which includes millions of US citizen children; making dependents of all ages eligible; improving delivery to move money as quickly as possible; and telling the

IRS to use all tools at its disposal to identify everybody eligible and make sure payments actually get to them, especially people who are low-income and don't file taxes, are unbanked, or are experiencing homelessness.

As Congress looks to its next round of legislation we must cast a wider net and help everyone with extraordinary expenses. It makes sense to extend relief to keep businesses afloat and help keep wages flowing, and it is essential to fund state and local governments. At the same time, we must also keep families afloat through recurring direct payments, expanded unemployment insurance, and food/housing aid to those in need. Solutions that focus only on employers and wage replacement will inevitably [leave some people out and leave some people short](#).

Congress must provide lasting financial support to the millions of American families who were already living paycheck to paycheck before this crisis unfolded. We urge you to provide [Emergency Money to the People](#) in the next coronavirus response package.

Sincerely,

- **American Federation of Teachers
Local 212**
- **Alameda County Community
Food Bank**
- **All Home California**
- **Alliance for Girls**
- **Black To The Future Action Fund**
- **California Welfare Directors
Association**
- **Caring Across Generations**
- **Center for American Progress**
- **Children's Defense Fund**
- **Children's Defense
Fund-California**
- **Children's Health Watch**
- **Church World Service**
- **Club Stride Inc.**
- **Coalition on Human Needs**
- **Community Advocates Public
Policy Institute**
- **Community Change Action**
- **Congregation of Our Lady of
Charity of the Good Shepherd,
U.S .Provinces**
- **Contra Costa Family Economic
Security Partnership**
- **Economic Security Illinois**
- **Economic Security Project Action**
- **End Child Poverty CA/The GRACE
Institute**
- **Equality North Carolina**
- **First 5 Alameda County**
- **First Focus Campaign for
Children**
- **Funding the Next Generation**
- **Golden State Opportunity**
- **Heartland Alliance**
- **High Ground Institute**
- **Humanity Forward**
- **Illinois Coalition for Immigrant
and Refugee Rights**
- **Income Movement**
- **Inland Empire Immigrant Youth
Collective**
- **Institute on Taxation and
Economic Policy**
- **LatinxVoice**
- **MoveOn**
- **MyPath**
- **National Advocacy Center of the
Sisters of the Good**
- **National Alliance of HUD Tenants**

- **National Domestic Workers Alliance**
- **National Women's Law Center**
- **NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice**
- **One Fair Wage**
- **ParentsTogether Action**
- **Patriotic Millionaires**
- **People's Action**
- **RESULTS**
- **RESULTS-DC**
- **Shriver Center on Poverty Law**
- **Tax March**
- **The Justice Collaborative**
- **Union for Reform Judaism**
- **United Ways California**
- **Voices for Progress**
- **We all Rise**