



Covid-19 Relief and Recovery Plan for Black America

For too long, Black people have had to work twice as hard to barely get half as far in America. The rules of the economy, our democracy, and our society are rigged -- and as a result, Black communities are falling farther behind. COVID-19 has exposed the connection between rigged rules and their impacts on our families: Black people are infected at higher rates, and comprise the majority of deaths from the disease in many cities across America.

We need a plan for Black communities that protects our families, provides access to the care we need, and that builds new infrastructure to address the crises facing us. It's time to change the rules, and make new ones that protect and strengthen our communities. [The Black Agenda 2020](#) is a roadmap for making Black people powerful in all aspects of our lives.

To flatten the curve and level the playing field, Congress must adopt the following Black Agenda 2020 priorities immediately:

I The Economy

Decades of employment discrimination have led to Black workers being locked out of high-wage jobs that can be performed from home. We are overrepresented in the “service economy” — jobs that typically offer no health insurance or paid sick leave, require face-to-face contact, and have little or no access to personal protective equipment but are nonetheless deemed essential.

Without strong intervention to provide immediate relief while addressing racial disparities that were prevalent before the pandemic, Black communities are sure to face devastation that will be worse than the Great Depression. Full economic relief, recovery, and protection for impacted people and communities during the Covid-19 pandemic is needed.



1. Pass the [Essential Workers Bill of Rights](#)
2. Put cash directly into the hands of people via the [Emergency Money to the People](#) plan until the economy recovers
3. Student loan forgiveness - complete cancellation of payments until the economy recovers
4. Expand social security payments
5. Debt relief and deferred payments until the employment rate rebounds to pre-pandemic levels on loans / mortgages / and other debt payments
6. Penalties for price gouging essential items (corporate responsibility)
7. Eliminate child support debt as a barrier to accessing relief and recovery funds
8. A guarantee of priority for all Black owned small businesses in the next round of PPP funding
9. Guarantee of relief for every person in America, despite immigration status
10. Release non-violent offenders; guarantee care and prevention measures for violent offenders
11. Halt immigration enforcement

Healthcare



Persistent bias across the healthcare industry, a lack of worker protections including medical insurance and paid sick leave, and inadequate access to quality medical care and fresh foods have left us uniquely vulnerable to Covid-19. Many of the high risk factors for the virus, including diabetes, asthma, and heart conditions, are

overrepresented in our community due to years of neglect by the government.

Unless real, race-forward policy measures are taken, we are at risk of losing an entire generation to this pandemic. The following are paramount to protecting the health of the Black community.

1. Guaranteed free testing and 100% coverage of Covid-19 treatments for all persons in America despite citizenship and incarceration status
2. Pass the [Health Care Emergency Guarantee Act](#)
3. Culturally competent medical guidelines
4. Increased rapid testing sites in underserved and rural communities, prioritizing counties with 20%+ Black residents
5. Mandatory race, gender, and class specific data collection (local, state, and federal) to inform future relief and recovery efforts

Housing



The lack of affordable, safe housing has been a major problem in the Black community for generations. Driven, in part, by the legal redlining and gentrification of our communities that have pushed us to the most geographically undesirable and unsafe places, we are likelier to live in areas and homes with more

environmental pollution, a higher susceptibility to natural disasters, and increased isolation from quality of life indicators. Systemic and institutional inequities in housing must be addressed head on to give Black communities the support needed to weather this pandemic.

1. Rent, mortgage, eviction moratoriums for those who've lost their jobs due to covid-19 including accruing interest and taxes; incentivize landlords to keep people in their homes until the economy recovers
2. Moratorium on all public utilities and internet until the economy recovers
3. Safe housing options for victims of domestic violence and at-risk family members of essential workers

Democracy



Democracy and voting rights have always been tenuous propositions for Black communities in America. There has never been a time in this country's history where those rights were not under attack and this pandemic is no different. There are people in government who will

seek to use this disaster as an opportunity to continue stripping those rights away from our community.

The right to vote must be protected at all costs and elections must be accessible, fair, and safe. Now is the time to expand and strengthen voting rights for all!

1. Make elections free, fair, safe and accessible!
Increased funding for: (1) expanded vote by mail in all US states and territories; (2) same day voting and registration; and (3) in person protections, including PPE, for poll workers and voters
2. Guarantee needed funding for and protection against sabotage for the United State Postal Service
3. Pass the [VoteSafe Act of 2020](#)