

March 18, 2020



To: Governor Kate Brown

RE: COVID-19 and Economic Impact on Low-income Communities Across the State

Dear Governor Kate Brown,

On behalf of Latinos Unidos Siempre and 12 partner organizations, I am writing to you in response to the global pandemic COVID-19 and the impact this is having on front-line communities. Since March 13, 2020 our national and state elected leaders have been responding by enforcing the limiting of social interactions by closing businesses, work places, schools, organizations and more.

While we understand that these decisions are of extreme importance to stop the spread of the virus and keep our most vulnerable communities safe, this will have a major economic impact on low-income and working class families, living paycheck to paycheck. Many of our service based organizations have had to limit our resources and or close in response to COVID-19. We know that those most impacted by the lack of resources during this time are immigrants, refugees, individuals experiencing homelessness, communities of color, children, youth, as well as folks in immigration detention centers and in prisons. We ask that you show your full support to our communities to ensure that we are putting those most impacted at the forefront.

Latinos Unidos Siempre serves an average of 300 youth every year, and together with our sister and or partner organizations we serve over 20,000+ families through services, advocacy, mobilizing and more, in the Willamette Valley. On behalf of the community members we serve, we ask that your office take the following actions;

- 1. Pass state-wide rent and mortgage forgiveness for at least two months and extend this as needed**
- 2. Pass a state-wide suspension on home and apartment utilities- including water, electricity, trash, etc.**
- 3. Provide statewide multilingual preventative information on COVID-19**
- 4. Pass free statewide public transit services for three months**

5. **Provide healthcare for all regardless of immigration status**
6. **Provide COVID-19 testing response for all communities regardless of immigration status**
7. **Provide free food and essential resources available to low-income families**
8. **Provide universal childcare for those who continue working**
9. **Support the release of all youth in juvenile detention centers**
10. **Emergency shelters for youth impacted by homelessness**
11. **The release of all non-violent convicted individuals in jails and prisons to reduce risk of spread in our highly populated prisons**
12. **The release of all people being held in immigration detention centers**

As organizations that serve front-line communities, we are here to support in any way possible. Thank you for taking the time reading this email.

Sincerely,

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