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Subject: [External]Follow-Up: COVID-19 National Briefing Call with State-Local-Tribal Leaders (June 10)
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THE WHITE HOUSE

State, Local, and Tribal Leaders –

Thank you to the State, local, and Tribal leaders who joined Vice President Mike Pence and Senior Administration Officials for the White House COVID-19 National Briefing Call on Wednesday, June 10. Attendees heard comprehensive updates and insights on continuing support for State, local, and Tribal response, recovery, and reopening efforts from **Vice President Pence**, **Ambassador Deborah Birx** (White House Coronavirus Task Force Coordinator), **Secretary Ben Carson** (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development), **Secretary Eugene Scalia** (U.S. Department of Labor), and **Secretary Betsy DeVos** (U.S. Department of Education). The Vice President also expressed his appreciation for the great work and sacrifice from America's State, local, and Tribal leaders and also asked call attendees to share his, President Trump's, and the entire Administration's appreciation for our Nation's first responders and healthcare workers. Find several examples from State and local leaders **here**, **here**, **here**, **here**, and **here**. Below, please find pertinent updates and a recap from the call.

2.5 MILLION

JOBS ADDED IN MAY

Recent Announcements

President Trump Hosts Law Enforcement Roundtable: On Monday, President Trump held a roundtable discussion with law enforcement officials at the White House, where officers discussed responsible ideas for reform and ways for police officers to act as

better friends for their communities. “There’s a reason for our less crime – it’s because we have great law enforcement. I’m very proud of them. There won’t be defunding, there won’t be dismantling of our police, and there are not going to be any disbanding of our police,” the President stated. Find a video recap **here**.

HHS Announces Enhanced Provider Portal, Relief Fund Payments for Safety Net Hospitals, Medicaid & CHIP Providers: On June 9, HHS **announced** additional distributions from the Provider Relief Fund to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers that participate in State Medicaid and CHIP programs. HHS expects to distribute approximately $15 billion to eligible providers that participate in State Medicaid and CHIP programs and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Allocation. HHS is also announcing the distribution of $10 billion in Provider Relief Funds to safety net hospitals that serve our most vulnerable citizens.

HUD Provides Remaining $2.96 Billion in CARES Act Funding for Homeless Populations Amid Coronavirus Recovery: On June 9, HUD Secretary Ben Carson **announced** the allocation of $2.96 billion in Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) funding to support homeless Americans and individuals at risk of becoming homeless because of hardships such as job loss, wage reduction, or illness due to COVID-19. This funding is in addition to $1 billion of ESG grants announced **within a week** of President Trump signing the CARES Act. View state and territory funding allocations **here**.

Economic Development Administration Grant Applications Still Open: On May 7, the Department of Commerce **announced** the Department’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) will allocate $1.5 B in CARES Act funds to aid communities across the country in preventing, preparing for, and responding to the coronavirus pandemic. EDA will make CARES Act Recovery Assistance grants under the authority of the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, which is intended to be flexible and responsible to the economic development needs and priorities of local and regional stakeholders. More information, including how communities can apply, can be found **here**. Also find other EDA grant and loan award announcements **here**.

USDA Ensures All Kids Can Get Free Meals This Summer as Nation Reopens: On June 10, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue **announced** a nationwide extension of another key flexibility for USDA’s child nutrition programs. This waiver allows local partners, who have been working overtime serving meals to kids during the health crisis, the ability to continue serving free meals to all children – regardless of where they live – for the remainder of the summer. This action is part of USDA’s ongoing commitment to making it as easy as possible for local program operators to get food to children impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CMS Issues Guidance Encouraging Reopening of Healthcare Facilities: On June 9, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services **released** a **guide** for patients and beneficiaries as they consider their in-person care options. During the height of the pandemic, many healthcare systems and patients postponed non-emergency, in-person care in order to keep patients and providers safe and to ensure capacity to care for COVID-19 patients. As states and regions across the United States see a decline in cases of COVID-19, CMS is providing these recommendations to ensure that non-emergency healthcare resumes safely and that patients are receiving needed in-person treatment that may have been postponed due to the public health emergency.

Treasury Continues Distribution of Economic Impact Payments: As of June 3, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and IRS **have distributed** more than 159 million Economic Impact Payments, worth more than $267 billion, in two months. Payments have been sent to all eligible Americans for whom the IRS has the necessary information to make

a payment. These totals do not include the more than $2.5 billion that have been delivered to U.S. territories for payment to territory residents.

Federal Reserve Expand Main Street Lending Program: On June 8, the Federal Reserve Board **announced** its Main Street Lending Program to allow more small and medium-sized businesses to be able to receive support. The Board lowered the minimum loan amount, raised the maximum loan limit, adjusted the principal repayment schedule to begin after two years, and extended the term to five years, providing borrowers with greater flexibility in repaying the loans. The Board expects the Main Street program to be open for lender registration soon and to be actively buying loans shortly afterwards. More on the MLP **here**.

IRS Warns Against COVID-19 Fraud; Other Financial Schemes: On June 8, the Internal Revenue Service **reminded** taxpayers to guard against tax fraud and other related financial scams related to COVID-19. In the last few months, the IRS Criminal Investigation division (CI) has seen a variety of Economic Impact Payment (EIP) scams and other financial schemes looking to take advantage of unsuspecting taxpayers. CI continues to work with law enforcement agencies domestically and abroad to educate taxpayers about these scams and investigate the criminals perpetrating them during this challenging time.

SBA Announces New Paycheck Protection Program Flexibilities: On June 8, the U.S. Small Business Administration and U.S. Department of the Treasury **announced** new PPP flexibilities following passage of the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act. SBA, in consultation with Treasury, will promptly issue rules and guidance, a modified borrower application form, and a modified loan forgiveness application implementing these legislative amendments to the PPP.

FEMA Begins Distribution of Emergency Food and Shelter Program Funding: On June 8, the Federal Emergency Management Agency **announced** the distribution of $320 million to assist organizations in communities across the country dedicated to providing food, shelter and supportive services to people with economic emergencies, including our nation's hungry and homeless populations. Find more DHS and FEMA support actions **here**.

U.S. Department of Labor Awards Nearly $239 Million in Dislocated Worker Grants in Response to the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency: On June 8, the U.S. Department of Labor **announced** the award of three Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) totaling $16,836,480 to help address the workforce-related impacts of the coronavirus public health emergency. These awards are funded under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provided $345 million for DWGs to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus. This latest award follows five previous waves of funding, bringing the total amount awarded to states and territories to $238,881,438.

FDA Reissues Emergency Use Authorizations Revising Which Types of Respirators Can be Decontaminated for Reuse: In response to public health and safety concerns about the appropriateness of decontaminating certain respirators, the FDA **announced** the agency is reissuing certain emergency use authorizations (EUAs) to specify which respirators are appropriate for decontamination. Based on the FDA's increased understanding of the performance and design of these respirators, the FDA has decided that certain respirators should not be decontaminated for reuse by health care personnel.

FEMA Releases Mass Care Delivery Guidance: On June 10, the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued **guidance** to assist State, tribal and territorial governments in

planning mass care delivery. Given the unique circumstances presented by a pandemic environment, planning is critical to ensure resources, facilities, and workers are in place to provide shelter services and maintain health and well-being of both survivors and workers. The Mass Care/Emergency Assistance Pandemic Planning Considerations guide provides information on sheltering, feeding, evacuation and the federal resource request process.

President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice Continues Hearing on Community Engagement: On June 9, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice continued its hearing on community engagement. The hearing was conducted via teleconference and featured expert witnesses who provided testimony and answered questions from the commissioners. More **here**.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (WH IGA) will continue to share pertinent information as it becomes available. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if we can be of assistance. As a reminder, WH IGA is the primary liaison between the White House and the country's State and local elected officials and Tribal Governments.

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

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White House COVID-19 National Briefing Call Readout
June 10, 2020

White House Coronavirus Task Force
According to Dr. Birx, a recent study from *Nature* suggests that the United States prevented over 3 million coronavirus deaths as a result of mitigation efforts from the President and Administration alongside that of the American people. Another study found that the shutdown efforts prevented 50 million additional coronavirus cases. Taken together, the two reports, which used different methods to reach similar conclusions suggest that the aggressive and unprecedented shutdowns were effective at halting the exponential spread of the novel coronavirus. Find more from the Washington Post here (**Shutdowns prevented 60 million coronavirus infections in the U.S., study finds**).

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

- The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development recently **announced** the allocation of nearly $3 billion in Emergency Solution Grants to support those at risk of homelessness because of job loss, wage reduction, or illness due to COVID-19. HUD has allocated nearly $4 billion overall for coronavirus relief.
- The White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council is shifting its focus to drive recovery in minority communities, which have been disproportionately hit by the coronavirus pandemic. This includes at developing and implementing policy solutions around a host of shared priorities, including community revitalization, criminal justice reform, and improving health outcomes for disadvantaged and all Americans. President Trump has directed the **White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council**. Find more in an interview with Brooke Rollins (Acting Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council) here: **White House**

Domestic Policy Chief Says White House Working Through Proposals to Unify Country.

- HUD is beginning preparation for hurricane season through briefings with senior leadership, review of disaster recovery procedures, and dialogue with stakeholder groups. Find more Hurricane Assistance and Recovery resources from HUD **here**.

U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

- Pundits were **stunned** when they first saw the monthly jobs report for May. After "experts" projected that the United States would lose 7.5 million jobs last month, the economy added 2.5 million—the biggest monthly gain *in history*. Sectors that saw the most significant job growth were hospitality, construction, education, health services, and retail. Overall, the national unemployment rate declined by 1.4%. Find more from the Department of Labor's **May 2020 Employment Situation Report**.
- DOL has awarded $238.8 Million in National **Dislocated Worker Grants** to 53 states and territories in response to COVID-19. The funding supports, in part, employment and training activities for grant participants.
- DOL recently **awarded** 20 grants totaling nearly $24 million as part of the Job Corps Scholars Program, a new national demonstration project aimed at providing at-risk youth with job skills instruction, educational opportunities and individualized employment counseling. The grantees include accredited, two-year, public community colleges; accredited, public two- and four-year historically black colleges and universities (HBCU); and accredited tribally controlled colleges and universities (TCCU) that will serve Job Corps-eligible youth and young adults from 16 to 24 years of age.
- The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) remains committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for all Americans. OSHA has established a COVID-19 **webpage** providing general information and technical guidance.

U.S. Department of Education (ED)

- **Secretary Betsey DeVos**: "Looking ahead just a few weeks to this fall...bottom line: school quite simply must be in session. It's critical to students, to families, to our economy."
- **Federal Student Loans**: In March, ED **provided relief** to millions of borrowers by suspending federally held student loan payments and setting interest rates at 0% for 60 days. This action was extended through September 30, 2020, following passage of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) *Act*. Additionally, ED announced it would halt all collection actions and wage garnishments for at least 60 days and refund approximately $1.8 million in offsets to more than 830,000 borrowers.
- **CARES Act Implementation**:
    - On April 14, ED **announced** the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund with "few bureaucratic strings attached" so that governors would be empowered to best serve students at all levels in the ways that will work best in their state, based on local needs. To date, 99% of this emergency funding has been awarded.
    - On April 23, ED **announced** the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund for immediate needs, such as tools and resources for distance education, ensuring student health and safety, and developing and implementing plans for the next school year.
    - ED also **announced** two discretionary grant competitions, totaling $307.5 million, for states to create adaptable, innovative learning opportunities for K-12 and postsecondary learners. The Rethink K-12 Education Models Grant is

aimed at opening new, ways for students to access their education. The Reimagining Workforce Preparation Grants are designed to expand short-term programs and work-based learning programs to get Americans back to work and support small businesses.

- The Higher Education Relief Fund has provided $13.95 billion to postsecondary students and institutions.
- ED **made available** half that amount for colleges and universities to provide students direct emergency cash grants to assist them with expenses related to disruptions to their educations, including course materials, technology, food, housing, health care, and childcare. An additional $6.2 billion was **allocated** to institutions of higher education to cover costs related to COVID-19. To date, 96% of this emergency funding has been awarded.
- ED also **made available** approximately $1.4 billion to Minority Serving Institutions (including HBCUs), institutions that serve low-income students, and institutions that to date have not otherwise received $500,000 in relief funds.