

City of Los Angeles: An Inclusive Response to COVID-19



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Responding to COVID-19: The Disproportionate Impact

- Population of L.A. County is over 10 million.
 - Approximately 3.6 million residents of L.A. County are foreign-born, nearly half of them are naturalized citizens, 28% are Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR), and 24% are undocumented.
- Disproportionate impact on communities of color & immigrants.

As of April 26 in the County of Los Angeles:

 - 19,516 confirmed COVID-19 cases; race/ethnicity reported for 10,699 confirmed cases
 - 46.4% were Latino, compared to 23.7% white, 11.5% Asian, 8% African American, 1.5% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, 0.1% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 8.6% identified as another race/ethnicity.
 - 883 confirmed COVID-19 deaths; race/ethnicity reported for 865 deaths
 - 37.1% were Latino, compared to 28.2% white, 18.4% Asian, 13.8% African American, 1.3% Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, 0.1% American Indian or Alaska Natives, and 1.2% identified as another race/ethnicity.

Addressing the Disproportionate Impact

On May 1, 2020, Mayor Garcetti appointed a Chief Officer of the COVID-19 Response Equity to prioritize services and strategies needed to combat the disproportionate impact in some communities.

- Goal: to keep equity as the primary lens through which we refract our reaction at every stage of response
- Focus in the short term:
 - Testing and prevention
 - Information about resources
 - Targeted outreach

Mayor Eric Garcetti Appoints Capri Maddox as Chief Officer of COVID Response Equity

By Betti Halsell, Contributing Writer
Published May 1, 2020



Capri Maddox also sits as 1st Chief Executive Director of New City Branch, The Civil and Human Rights Department, This Coming January 2021.



Capri Maddox, 1st Chief Executive Director of New City Branch, The Civil and Human Rights Department, Chief Officer of COVID-19 Equity Response. (File Photo)

Inclusive Action in Response to COVID-19



Public Health Response

● Testing and Prevention

- Testing for coronavirus is available to all Angelenos, regardless of symptoms, insurance or immigration status.
 - Sign up in multiple languages
- Locations in underserved communities: large Latino, African American, and immigrant populations
- Drive through locations as well as walk up sites

● Access to Healthcare

- In L.A. County, My Health L.A. provides medical care to the uninsured and underinsured regardless of immigration status.
- L.A. County residents have access to the L.A. County Department of Mental Health 24/7 Helpline.
- Remind people that it is safe to see the doctor if they need care. Doctors should not ask about immigration status.

Inclusive Action in Response to COVID-19



Economic Impact Response

● Individuals/Families

- Moratorium on residential evictions, no rent increases on some rental units
- Utilities won't be turned off for lack of payment
- Expansion of senior meals delivery to those most vulnerable
- With school district, open 63 Grab and Go Food Centers where each child can take home two nutritious meals daily

● Businesses & Workers

- Moratorium on evictions of commercial spaces
- Small business emergency microloan program of \$11 million in no-fee microloans of \$5,000-\$20,000 each
- Small Business Resilience Toolkit
- Mandate certain essential businesses to provide face coverings for employees, can refuse entry or service to members of the public without face coverings
- Fill a gap in the federal supplemental sick leave program
- Set up a job search portal that enables unemployed or underemployed Angelenos to find and apply to jobs

Mayor's Fund "Angeleno Card" Program

Collaboration of Mayor Garcetti's Office & the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles raised \$20M to distribute

- Requirements:

- Households in the City of Los Angeles, and
- Pre-pandemic income below the federal poverty level, and
- Lost a job or income reduced by up to 50% due to the pandemic

- No fee debit cards of \$ 700, \$1000, or \$ 1500

- Inclusive:

- Did not ask about immigration status, not considered for eligibility
- Online application but also telephone application
- Bilingual staff available (Spanish) and access to language line
- If receiving benefits, may still qualify

- More than 450,000 applications; 187,000 pre-qualified; a lottery was used to choose 20,000 households; help over 60,000 Angelenos

- California follows: \$150M partnership with philanthropy

ANGELENO CARD AMOUNT	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	PRE-COVID HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$700	1 PERSON	\$0 – \$12,400
	2 PERSONS	\$0 – \$16,910
\$1,100	3 PERSONS	\$0 – \$21,330
	4 PERSONS	\$0 – \$25,750
\$1,500	5 PERSONS	\$0 – \$30,170
	6 PERSONS	\$0 – \$34,590
	7 PERSONS	\$0 – \$39,010
	8 PERSONS	\$0 – \$43,430
	9 PERSONS	\$0 – \$47,850
	10 PERSONS	\$0 – \$52,270
	11 PERSONS	\$0 – \$56,690
	12 PERSONS	\$0 – \$61,010

Advocacy at the Federal, State and Local Level

- **Federal**

- COVID-19 testing and treatment for all—regardless of immigration status.
- Inclusion of immigrants, regardless of status, in financial assistance.
- Automatic renewal of certain work permits expiring in 2020.

- **State**

- Expanded tax benefits to those taxpayers filing without a SSN
- Inclusion of undocumented immigrants in financial assistance

- **County**

- Coordination and dissemination of information regarding available resources



Recovery Planning & Inclusive Future

Public health & economic measures led by public & private investment that address equity issues, are sustainable, and involve input from the community.

- Budget reassessment to consider short & long term support programs - while also dealing with deficits
 - Housing/tenant support, access to healthcare, food security, etc.
- Equity considerations when evaluating opportunities for outdoor exercise/recreation for communities as we slowly begin to reopen
- Continue to evaluate accessibility to programs and initiatives beyond pandemic
- Addressing workers' rights issues beyond the pandemic, particularly in regards to vulnerable workers
- Ensure that all measures take climate change into consideration and lead us towards a greener future

Recommendations

- Recovery measures as broad-reaching as possible with a focus on underserved communities, including immigrant communities
- Evaluating access of all programs & initiatives by asking:
 - is it language accessible?
 - is it location accessible?
 - is it accessible regardless of immigration status?
 - is there an access to technology barrier?
 - is the proof of identification or documentation requirement too onerous or narrow?
- Robust outreach and information dissemination strategy
 - Key messages that are language accessible, in right outlets via trusted messengers
- Communication and collaboration with stakeholders
 - Partner input; opportunities to maximize on existing partnerships and to create new partnerships

Questions?

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Visit:

lamayor.org/Immigration

<https://corona-virus.la/>

A blue square logo with white text. The text reads "Eric Garcetti" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and "#lamayor" in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font below it.

Eric
Garcetti
#lamayor