



March 13, 2020

Governor Kate Brown

Senate President Peter Courtney

House Speaker Tina Kotek

Re: Coronavirus and Workforce

Oregon Leadership:

We write as representatives of workers impacted by coronavirus to share what we are seeing in our communities right now and what we need to support communities right now.

We call on the State of Oregon to free up state resources and advocate for federal resources to fund the following things for workers impacted by the coronavirus. We call on you to use all the tools at your disposal as our community members are already experiencing impacts. Wages are being reduced, tips declined, layoffs anticipated. The existing resources we have to address the magnitude of the impact fall far, far short of the demand now and into the future.

- Emergency Rent assistance (direct payments)
- Emergency Food assistance (direct payments)
- Utility Bill Assistance (on bill payments)
- Additional Paid Sick Leave Hours
- Extension of Unemployment Benefits
- Allow for unemployment benefits
- Ensure free breakfasts and lunches continue if schools close
- Ensure testing and treatment is available and free irrespective of health care coverage
- Ensure transit is safe for transit-dependent people.
- Emergency state action to prevent evictions and impose stringent rent control through the term of the epidemic.
- Emergency support for agencies serving most impacted populations to make up for loss of fundraising revenue.

- Include non-profits serving the community in disaster relief so that we may continue serving the community in this crisis without having to face organizational insolvency.

We call on the State of Oregon to allocate resources for these needs through a special session, allocation to emergency funding and/or other mechanisms as necessary to immediately generate resources for low-income and people of color workers in the state. We look forward to continued partnership with the State to generate these resources.