



Policy Meets Practice: Advocacy in the Time of COVID-19

Participate in polls and brainstorm:

From your phone, text **kishabird479** to **22333**

or

From your web browser, type in **pollev.com/kishabird479**

Agenda

- Introductions and Icebreaker
- Community Check-In
- National Policy Overview and COVID-19 updates
- Summer Youth Employment
- Closing

Connect to Poll Everywhere:

Text **kishabird479** to **22333** – OR – go to **pollev.com/kishabird479**

Icebreaker Questions

1. Connect to Poll Everywhere
2. Type in your Name, Community, and then Icebreaker Answer
(e.g. Whitney, Red)

Connect to Poll Everywhere:

Text **kishabird479** to **22333** – OR – go to **pollev.com/kishabird479**

When poll is active, respond at **PollEv.com/kishabird479**

Text **KISHABIRD479** to **22333** once to join

**If you could rid the world of 1 thing, what
would it be?**

What type of organization do you represent?

Workforce board

Youth organizer (e.g., OYU)

City government agency

Program provider


Advocacy organization

Other

Discussion Question

What is one creative strategy you're using during COVID-19 that you would like to share?

- Raise your hand to be called on
- Type response in chat



What is one challenge you're facing that this group could help with?

Top

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT

Stimulus payments

- Amount
 - \$1,200 for adults making less than \$75,000 (\$150,000 for a joint return)
 - \$500 per child (for children under 17 years old)
 - Reduced checks for individuals making up to \$99,000 a year.
- Eligibility
 - Young people over 18 years old who are not claimed as tax dependents, if they have a 2018 or 2019 tax return.
 - 17 years old and independent

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT

Unemployment Insurance (UI) –

- Temporary enhancements to unemployment insurance
 - \$250 billion including \$600 increase in weekly checks through July 31, 2020
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
 - Expands UI coverage to self-employed workers, gig workers, and independent contractors
 - May be eligible through self-attestation
 - Temporary 13-week extension of UI benefits through December 31, 2020

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) –

- Time Limits
 - Suspends time limits for ABAWDs, ages 18-49
- Eligibility
 - Access to food and nutrition benefits regardless of employment status, unless offered a work activity and refuse
 - States can suspend work requirements

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT

Paid sick days and paid family and medical leave

- Up to 10 paid sick days and up to 10 weeks of paid family and medical leave for some workers with caregiving needs related to the COVID-19 outbreak

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT

Workforce Development

- Administrative set-asides for local workforce development boards
 - Increases up to 20 percent to assist in emergency response (presumably largely related to virtual services)
- “Governor’s Reserve”
 - Gives governors authority to immediately spend unobligated “governor’s reserve” funds for rapid response.
- Training and Supportive Services
 - \$345 million for dislocated workers, seniors, migrant farmworkers, and homeless veterans.

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT Justice

- \$850 M for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program
 - Flexible funding that can be used to support criminal justice needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic including addressing health needs of incarcerated individuals.
- Federal Bureau of Prisons changes
 - Expands conditions of home confinement
 - Free video/telephone visitation during pandemic.
- Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
 - Small Business Administration adopted rule to prevent people who have been convicted of a felony in the last five years, those currently incarcerated, on probation or parole, or under criminal indictment from obtaining forgivable loans through the PPP.

National Policy Updates: CARES ACT

(some) Public + Mental Health

CARES 1.0	CARES 2.0 (Senate bill)
\$425m to Substance Use Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for mental health	\$75B in reimbursements to hospitals + healthcare providers (including Medicaid, non-profit, for-profit providers)
\$100B in hospital reimbursements for COVID-19	\$600m to Federally Qualified Health Centers
\$17B to Veterans Health Administration	\$225m to Rural Health Clinics
\$1.32B to Federally Qualified Health Centers	Funding for research, testing, PPE, trace contacts, surveillance, + healthcare workforce + training
Changing levels of consent for substance use treatment	\$1B to testing for uninsured + disaggregated race/ethnicity, age, sex, geography data
Increasing paid sick leave, insurance coverage for testing, nutrition assistance, telehealth, rural health, research, PPE, + healthcare workforce in substance use and maternal and child health	More information about CARES 1.0 and health is here .

National Policy Updates: Future in Mental Health

- Mental health supports for frontline workers (healthcare staff, bus drivers, grocery store workers, workforce agency staff)
- Ensure caregivers get protective gear
- Reimbursements for staff that fall outside of those who are “qualified” by statute---e.g. peer support specialists
- Support telehealth that works for young people (therapy by text, providing expanded data plans, phones)
- Our complete set of recommendations is [here](#).

National Policy Updates: Advocacy Strengthen and Expand Federal Programs

Workforce Training Activities and Related Workforce Programs		
Workforce Training Activities	Our Request	Estimate of Participants who would be served:
Adult Employment and Training Activities	\$5 billion	3,790,750
Dislocated Workers Employment and Training Activities	\$5 billion	1,640,958
Youth Workforce Investment Activities	\$5.5 Billion	938,406
Adult Education and Literacy	\$1 Billion	1,600,000
Reentry Programs	\$500 million	97,982
Indian and Native American Programs	\$300 million	76,394
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	\$300 million	62,552
Youthbuild	\$750 million	50,000
Job Corps	\$500 million	14,285
Corporation for National Community Service	\$500 million	16,667
Total	\$19.35 billion	8,287,994

National Policy Updates: Advocacy

Fund a National Transitional Jobs Program

- \$44 billion for a transitional jobs program
- Emphasize subsidized employment and “earn-as-you-learn” models such as transitional jobs that target those with barriers to employment including people impacted by the justice system

National Policy Updates: Advocacy

Accountability and Equity

- National *paid sick days* and *paid family and medical leave* so that all workers are covered by these critical work supports.
- Federal *scheduling policy* so that workers have stable schedules and can enroll in training and education programs without fear of work scheduling interruptions.
- Incorporate set-asides targeting *immediate reemployment and training services* to workers in low-wage jobs who have experienced job losses or extended unemployment over the long-term due to the coronavirus.

National Policy Updates: Advocacy

Education: Postsecondary Bridging for All

- *Strengthen the local bridging system*
 - Funding through community leads (LEAs, community colleges, municipal agencies, or other intermediaries)
 - Flexible funding that includes access to college/career readiness, evidence-based counseling, retention supports, and career exploration.
- *Bridging programs:*
 - Programs focused on
 - K-12 in-school youth
 - Reengaging youth who left school without a diploma
 - Workforce strategies such as pre-apprenticeship
 - Blended programs such as the federal GEAR UP program.

**From Reconnecting Youth Campaign*

National Policy Updates: Advocacy

Access to Trauma Informed, Healing Centered Supports from the Reconnecting Youth Campaign

- \$1 billion in additional funding
 - Assist youth programs in infusing trauma-informed, healing-centered approaches into their programs
 - Available until September 30, 2022
 - Administered by the Department of Labor through a joint arrangement with the Department of Health and Human Services

**From Reconnecting Youth Campaign*

What's the current status of SYEP in your community?

Don't know

Canceled

Same as usual

Decreased enrollment capacity

Working on remote solutions

Other