

PRAC-E Recommendations

Admin Notes:

- Please make sure your mic is MUTED unless you are providing comment
- Phone participants: Please identify yourself upon entering the meeting
- Upon Call To Order
 - All mics will be muted
 - Roll will be taken based upon (Zoom) participant list
- Committee Members: Please use the “raise hand” function if you’d like to ask a question or make comment during the presentation.
- Public Members: Once the Chair opens up the meeting for public comments, please use the “raise hand” function, and the admin will call out your name to provide comment. For phone participants, please state your name once the Chair opens up for public comment.
- Meeting material and minutes will be post on the PRAC website:
 - <https://governor.delaware.gov/prac/>

Agenda

- 1 Discuss joint accountability model for COVID response
- 2 Committee reflections on impacts and challenges for recommendation implementation
- 3 Public Comments
- 4 Closing and overview of next steps

How a joint accountability model between health, business, the State, communities, and the public can help avoid a second shutdown

State

1. Update guidance as health conditions change or upon new learnings in science
2. Communicate guidelines to all citizens (e.g. mask wearing)
3. Ensure fairness and consistent enforcement for both general population and businesses
4. Introduce targeted restrictions only on as needed basis

Business community

1. Comply with guidelines
2. Act responsibly and proactively to avoid resurgence
3. Take action against non compliant customers (e.g. denying entry)



Healthcare organizations

1. Provide healthcare guidance for the public (e.g., importance of testing) to support public health needs
2. Plan to ensure sufficient capacity (e.g., ICU bed, PPE, labor) to continue provision of care in the event of a resurgence
3. Work jointly with State to advance access, testing and other public health goals

Community organizations

1. Advocate for the needs of their communities
2. Act as trusted communicators of health guidance

General population

1. Abide by restrictions and guidelines
2. Report businesses that flout guidelines

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What
recommendations
do you think will
have the
greatest impact?



What will be the most impactful recommendations?

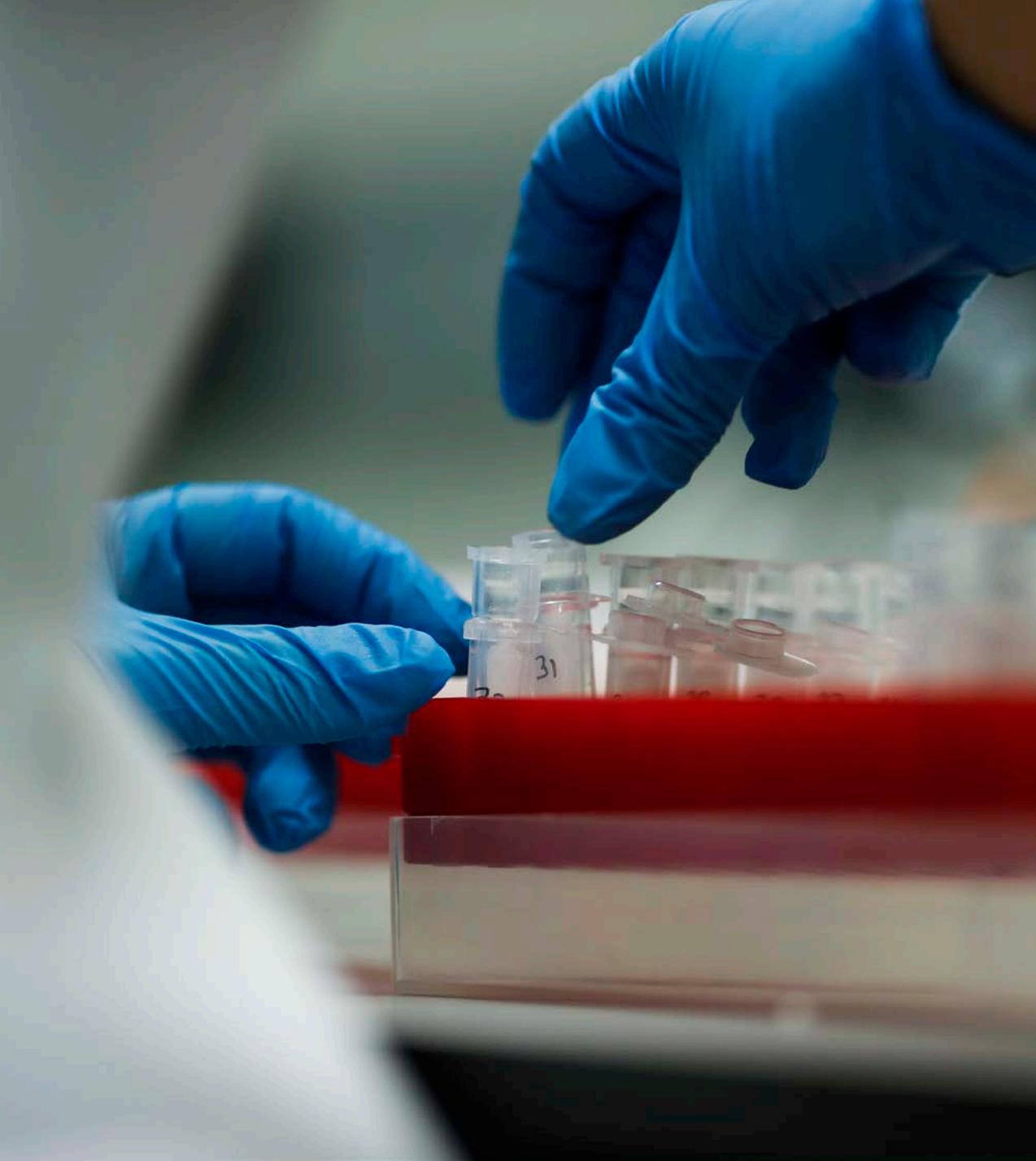
Health-Equity Recommendations

- 1 To reduce transmission risk, provide state-supported housing options for residents who need to self-isolate
- 2 Increase employer accountability in providing safe working environments and support for medical leave
- 3 Coordinate with community partners to increase access to PPE (masks and gloves) for DE residents in congregant and high density living situations, especially targeting geographies hardest hit by COVID
- 4 Work with community organizations on culturally-sensitive resident education about COVID risks and safety guidelines
- 5 Increase home access to wireless broadband with infrastructural investment and support for low-income residents to enable access, education, and telemedicine
- 6 For healthcare providers, expand capacity for interpretive services
- 7 Increase testing accessibility, allocation, and proactive sentinel programs for Black and Latino populations and other vulnerable populations
- 8 Expand contact tracing program, hiring and training displaced workers from most affected communities as contact tracers to maximize engagement and accuracy of information
- 9 Ensure continuity of healthcare facilities, encourage patients to address chronic care needs, and increase access to care for Black, Latino, and medically vulnerable populations
- 10 Develop a proactive plan and guidelines for allocation of healthcare resources in the event of a shortage
- 11 Increase data availability across key demographics related to testing, transmission, and mortality rates to target interventions and improve health outcomes

Economic-Equity Recommendations

- 1 Expand emergency financial assistance funds for low income workers impacted by pandemic
- 2 Maximize enrollment in existing public social safety net programs; State agencies to proactively prepare to increase surge capacity in event of deepening economic crises
- 3 Support community-based organizations / non-profits providing financial assistance
- 4 Expand incentives to increase access to capital and credit for minority and women-owned businesses
- 5 Expand eligibility of State loan programs and partner with local CDFI's to drive uptake for existing public pandemic aid programs (e.g., PPP, HELP), reducing barriers where possible, and proactively target MBEs
- 6 Implement measures for equitable State procurement opportunities and set goals for MBE participation in contracts awarded by the State
- 7 Support grants/loans for COVID-related expenses and entrepreneurship, with targeted outreach to MBEs and ensure any economic development programs and projects created target MBEs
- 8 Establish incentives for low income families to establish emergency savings funds to weather pandemic-related economic uncertainty
- 9 Continue investment in critical programs focused on economic mobility
- 10 Expand workforce development programs, with focus on service sector incentives to businesses to hire from non-traditional talent pools
- 11 Subsidize supportive services for both existing workforce and unemployed (e.g., childcare, broadband, public transit, rent, utilities)
- 12 Provide workforce access to sufficient protective equipment and safety measures (e.g., PPE) & support workforce impacted by COVID-19 (e.g., paid family leave)
- 13 Provide necessary supports for schools, students, and families to navigate flexibly through multiple possible scenarios, ensuring safety and continuous access to education and childcare

What
recommendations do
you think will be
most challenging
to implement?



Which recommendations will be most challenging to implement?

Health-Equity Recommendations

- 1 To reduce transmission risk, provide state-supported housing options for residents who need to self-isolate
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Economic-Equity Recommendations

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Public Comment

Agenda

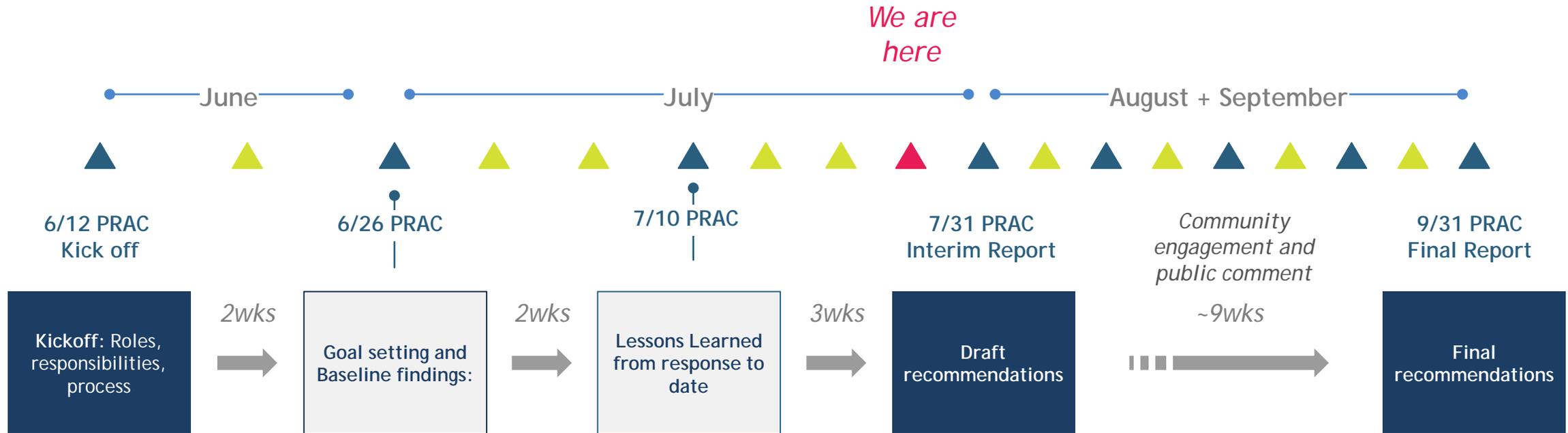
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Next steps and upcoming meetings

High level PRAC roadmap

PRAC meetings bi-monthly; Subcommittees meeting weekly

▲ PRAC meeting
▲ Sub-committee meetings



Interim report structure: PDF document and accompanying PowerPoint



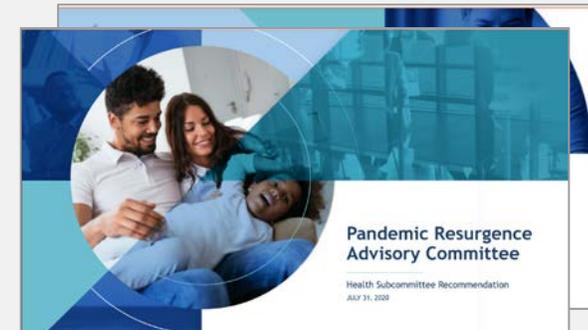
PDF Document

Summary of deliverable

- 20-25 page document with Letter from Co-Chairs, Executive Summary, and Sub-Committee specific recommendations
- Written in prose, with visuals to aid

Intended usage

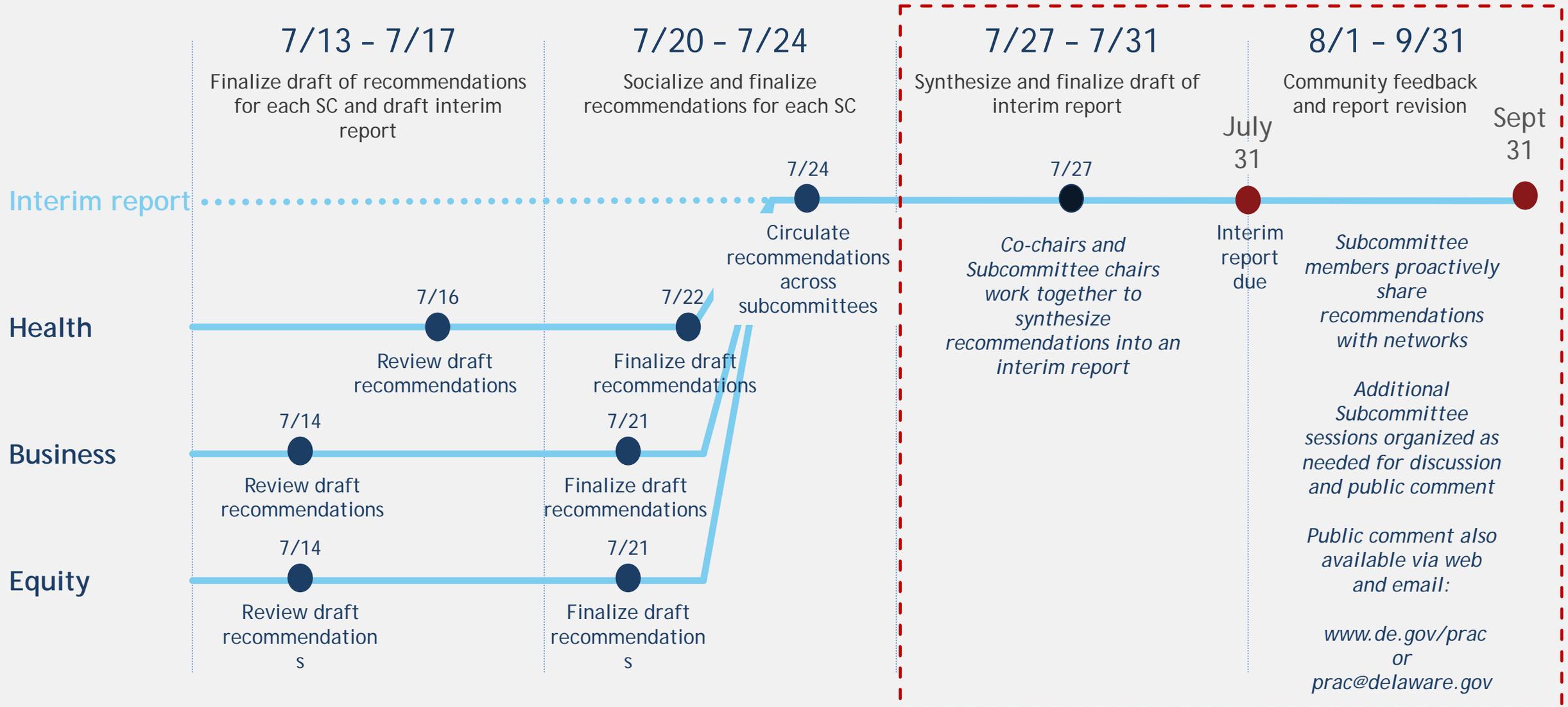
- Publicly available
- Summary of recommendations from across sub-committees



PowerPoint

- 60-80 pages per sub-committee, including detailed baseline analyses, key lessons learned, and detailed recommendations
- Written for visual presentation
- Intended to inform relevant stakeholders of recommendations and items to action

Timeline to finalize report





Thank you

Appendix



Addressing risk factors
underlying transmission



Guidelines for care continuity
and clinic resilience



Increased access and target
communications



Capture and monitor
population specific-data



Increased testing and reach

Addressing risk factors

- 1** To reduce transmission risk, provide state-supported housing options for residents who need to self-isolate
 - 1.1 Extend funding and explore expanded eligibility for emergency non-congregate sheltering (e.g., hotels/motels, shelters)
 - 1.2 Increase public awareness of and access to state-funded sheltering sites
- 2** Increase employer accountability in providing safe working environments and support for medical leave
 - 2.1 Clearly communicate minimum standards and increase accountability of employers for safe work environments
 - 2.2 Ensure full use of existing federal protections for paid medical leave and quarantine by employers and employees
 - 2.3 Help Delawareans better understand and increase uptake of workers' rights to paid medical leave to take care of themselves or as a caregiver
 - 2.4 Establish and communicate clear guidelines for both government and non-government institutions and congregate settings, including adult and juvenile correctional centers, mental health facilities, long term care and nursing home settings, for COVID-19 risk mitigation and protection of residents and employees while maintaining overall security and safety, including maintaining a 90-day supply of PPE and strategies for increasing compliance with social distancing measures and testing access to employees and residents
- 3** Coordinate with community partners to increase access to PPE (masks and gloves) for DE residents in congregant and high density living situations, especially targeting geographies hardest hit by COVID
 - 3.1 Using system of ongoing reporting and monitoring, coordinate with community organizations to provide masks and gloves for individuals in need of resources to meet basic PPE needs

Access and Communication

- 4** Work with community organizations on culturally-sensitive resident education about COVID risks and safety guidelines
 - 4.1 Partner with community organizations that have existing initiatives, and centralize resources to lower barriers to access
 - 4.2 Launch coordinated public relations campaign to promote transmission-reducing practices, including messaging designed to reach vulnerable populations
 - 4.3 Provide training and toolkits for educators and educational institutions to ensure awareness of and alignment with state guidelines for safe operations
- 5** Increase home access to wireless broadband with infrastructural investment and support for low-income residents to enable access, education, and telemedicine
 - 5.1 Coordinate with carriers and local jurisdictions to rapidly expand wireless broadband access
 - 5.2 Onboard unconnected households to increase access, especially for low-income individuals and rural communities
 - 5.3 Use earmarked funds and identify additional funding sources to increase State visibility of overall coverage and connectedness, especially for low-income individuals
- 6** For healthcare providers, expand capacity for interpretive services
 - 6.1 Incentivize healthcare providers to increase the number of frontline healthcare workers who are fluent in languages other than English (e.g., Spanish, Haitian Creole)
 - 6.2 Provide funding for healthcare providers to contract with video remote interpretation services to expand interpreter capacity

Access and Communication

7 Increase testing accessibility, allocation, and proactive community-wide programs for Black and Latino populations and other vulnerable populations

- 7.1 Increase testing allocation and uptake in Black and Latino populations to target positive test rate benchmarks
- 7.2 Increase accessibility of testing for Black and Latino populations with more sites and expanded hours
- 7.3 Partner with non-profits and other groups to increase access to testing for vulnerable populations (e.g., people with behavioral health conditions, in congregate living) and transient populations (e.g., homeless, recently incarcerated)
- 7.4 Expand proactive community-wide testing and reduce eligibility restrictions for testing

8 Expand contact tracing program, hiring and training displaced workers from most affected communities as contact tracers to maximize engagement and accuracy of information

- 8.1 Prioritize hiring of field tracers for communities with high rates of untraced contacts
- 8.2 Partner with neighboring states in Northeast coalition to identify best practices for effective contact tracing of vulnerable populations

Care continuity and clinic resilience

- 9** Ensure continuity of healthcare facilities, encourage patients to address chronic care needs, and increase access to care for Black, Latino, and medically vulnerable populations
 - 9.1 Support ability of healthcare facilities in underserved areas to stay operational
 - 9.2 Encourage residents to address chronic care needs by coordinating with community leaders to build trust and spread messaging
 - 9.3 Ensure continuous care for Black, Latino, and medically vulnerable populations by establishing tailored care delivery options (e.g., telemedicine) with reimbursement parity

- 10** Develop a proactive plan and guidelines for allocation of healthcare resources in the event of a shortage
 - 10.1 Coordinate hospital patient volumes between Delaware facilities through DHSS and the State Health Operations Center, based on patient risk and capacity constraints
 - 10.2 Facilitate distribution of personal protective equipment to healthcare providers in underserved areas in cases of critical shortage
 - 10.3 Consider advance guidelines related to care allocation in case of severe shortage to ensure clear protocols for populations with pre-existing conditions

Data

- 11** Increase data availability across key demographics related to testing, transmission, and mortality rates to target interventions and improve health outcomes
 - 11.1 Collect geographic testing and treatment data that includes household, workplace, and testing site for more insights related to work and home transmission and testing availability
 - 11.2 Increase visibility of State health data as part of comprehensive COVID data dashboard
 - 11.3 Track more comprehensive demographic data, incl. more racial categorizations, household structure, gender, etc. to be included in publicly available data



Support to Delawareans in financial crisis



Focus longer term efforts on wealth gap



Target support to minority-owned businesses



Promote employment and education

Support to Delawareans in financial crisis

1 Expand emergency financial assistance funds for low income workers impacted by pandemic

- 1.1 Increase emergency financial assistance to low income workers in industries facing prolonged challenges
- 1.2 Leverage philanthropic dollars and community partners for emergency financial assistance for Delawareans but ineligible for public benefits (e.g., undocumented workers)
- 1.3 Expand rental subsidy and eviction arbitration support for renters and mortgage assistance and foreclosure support for homeowners

2 Maximize enrollment in existing public social safety net programs; State agencies to proactively prepare to increase surge capacity in event of deepening economic crises

- 2.1 Work with community organizations on enrollment for newly unemployed and others eligible for State and Federal programs
- 2.2 Expand eligibility, increase benefit and extend deadlines where possible for local and State programs
- 2.3 Agencies to proactively prepare surge capacity for processing unemployment claims and social services applications in the event of deepening economic crisis

3 Support community-based organizations/non-profits providing financial assistance

- 3.1 Partner with and support local community organizations with pre-existing relationships and trust with impacted communities for implementation of economic/food assistance, recovery and health programs

Target support to minority-owned businesses

4 Expand incentives to increase access to capital and credit for minority and women-owned businesses

- 4.1 Increase funding for and capacity of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) in Delaware
- 4.2 For financial institutions, increase employer partnerships in DE that incentivize savings and retirement funds, especially for MBEs

5 Expand eligibility of State loan programs and partner with local CDFI's to drive uptake for existing public pandemic aid programs (e.g., PPP, HELP), reducing barriers where possible, and proactively target MBEs

- 5.1 Reduce requirements related to credit access, size of business, and industry type that limit eligibility for grants and loans for small business owners
- 5.2 Offer support services for small and minority business owners to receive assistance for grant/loan applications

6 Implement measures for equitable State procurement opportunities and set goals for MBE participation in contracts awarded by the State

- 6.1 Increase number of minority-owned businesses registered at Office of Supplier Diversity by streamlining certification process
- 6.2 Provide state-supported financial incentive to encourage inclusion of MBEs for procurement and contracting
- 6.3 Track progress towards specific targets for MBE participation in State procurement and state-supported projects as part of broader strategic plan

7 Support grants/loans for COVID-related expenses and entrepreneurship, with targeted outreach to MBEs and ensure any economic development programs and projects created target MBEs

- 7.1 Expand entrepreneurship loans/grants and accelerators, designating allotment of program funds for MBEs specifically
- 7.2 Augment loans, grants, subsidies, and other forgivable financial measures to support businesses impacted by the crisis, designating allotment of program funds for MBEs specifically
- 7.3 Assist MBEs in adapting to new working and servicing models by supporting capabilities and infrastructure buildouts (e.g., contactless payments, digital enablement, web/mobile servicing, etc.)
- 7.4 Support joint public-private sector mentorship programs to help entrepreneurs and small business owners overcome challenges to pivot and grow their business, with particular focus on MBEs

Focus longer term efforts on wealth gap

8 Establish incentives for low income families to build emergency savings funds to weather pandemic-related economic uncertainty

- 8.1 Provide tax credits for savings and retirement planning targeted at low income and minority households
- 8.2 Review eligibility requirements for social assistance programs to avoid disincentivizing personal savings

9 Continue investment in critical programs focused on economic mobility

- 9.1 In budget constrained environment, maintain funding for State programs that address wealth inequality and promote economic mobility
- 9.2 Continue to support Delaware higher education institutions and community colleges to avoid tuition increases or reduction in student loan/grants

Promote employment and education

10 Expand/Create workforce placement and development programs, with focus on service sector incentives to businesses to hire from non-traditional talent pools

- 10.1 Partner with private sector on training & employment opportunities for workforce development, focus on service sector placement into growth industries
- 10.2 Provide incentives to businesses to hire from non-traditional talent pools and reducing eligibility requirements

12 Provide workforce access to sufficient protective equipment and safety measures (e.g., PPE) & support workforce impacted by COVID-19 (e.g., paid family leave)

- 12.1 Provide workforce access to sufficient protective equipment and safety measures, including PPE, health checks, and a hotline to report noncompliance
- 12.2 Support workforce impacted by COVID-19 through increased access to paid medical and family leave

11 Subsidize supportive services for both existing workforce and unemployed (e.g., childcare, broadband, public transit, rent, utilities)

- 11.1 Continue or expand subsidy programs for caregivers (e.g. childcare, adult care) for low-income families
- 11.2 Create/expand public transit commuter subsidy/voucher programs for low-income families
- 11.3 Provide increased funding and incentives for schools and districts to increase internet connectivity for Delaware students
- 11.4 Expand high speed internet connectivity for Delaware low income and rural residents (see Health Equity Recommendation #5)

13 Provide necessary supports for schools, students, and families to navigate flexibly through multiple possible scenarios, ensuring safety and continuous access to education and childcare

- 13.1 Provide relief for public K-12 schools to help recover costs through a grant process for eligible expenses include PPE
- 13.2 Address food insecurity for students who typically rely on schools for meals
- 13.3 Ensure continuation of support for students and families who rely on schools for ancillary services (e.g., mental health counseling)



1 To reduce transmission risk, provide state-supported housing options to residents who need to self-isolate

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

1.1 Extend funding and explore expanded eligibility for emergency non-congregate sheltering, (e.g., hotels/motels, shelters)

- Through CARES Act, additional funding procured for CDBG Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), and FEMA Public Assistance Program

- Extend existing programs supporting quarantine and isolation for people testing positive for COVID and in need of sheltering
- Expand programs to provide opt-in shelter for essential workers and/or people living in high-density housing who are seeking proactively to increase social distance because of concern for their own or family member's health
- Addresses need for social distancing for homeless people and for high risk for individuals in high-density housing and essential workers
- For people with behavioral health conditions in isolation, provide more frequent check-ins and additional supports (e.g., centralized call center for fielding and tracking requests)

1.2 Increase public awareness of and access to state-funded sheltering sites

- DHSA website provides links to resources for applying for shelter and assistance

- Public media campaign can be developed at State level but should be coordinated and distributed through local community partners via multiple media (e.g., TV, phone, websites)
- Consider revision of eligibility criteria to expand who can utilize CDBG and FEMA Public Assistance emergency sheltering to encourage broader usage and as preventative measure



2 Increase employer accountability in providing safe working environments and support for medical leave

Continued on next page

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

2.1 Clearly communicate guidelines and increase accountability of employers for safe work environments

- Delaware Division of Small Business provides industry-specific guidelines for businesses

- Explore whether current minimum standards for safe operations and measures of enforcement for face coverings and social distancing have been effective, and consider expanding enforcement if necessary
- Consider increasing requirements based on positivity rates
- Beyond guidelines, define and regulate consequences for non-compliance with fines and/or shutdowns
- Provide employees mechanisms to report lack of adequate protective/safety measures (e.g., hotline to report noncompliant employers)

2.2 Ensure full use of existing federal protections for paid medical leave and quarantine by employers and employees

- Familie's First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA) and Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) guarantee employer reimbursement for paid medical and family leave

- Develop Delaware-specific aid program to supplement federal protections for paid medical leave that address potential gaps (e.g., small businesses; healthcare workers)
- offer incentives to exempt small businesses to extend benefit

2.3 Help Delawareans better understand and increase uptake of workers' rights to paid leave to take care of themselves or as caregivers

- Highlight employees' rights to paid leave through public campaign across multiple media (e.g., social media, TV, radio, flyers)
- Partner with community organizations to develop targeted materials for specific groups
- Address fear of job loss or loss of pay for using right to paid sick leave by partnering with employers to establish clarity in established processes utilizing medical or family leave under different scenarios (e.g., individual is sick; family member is sick; have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19)



2 Increase employer accountability in providing safe working environments and support for medical leave

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Sub-recommendation

2.4 Establish and communicate clear guidelines for both government and non-government institutions and congregate settings, including adult and juvenile correctional centers, mental health facilities, long term care and nursing home settings, for COVID-19 risk mitigation and protection of residents and employees while maintaining overall security and safety, including maintaining a 90-day supply of PPE and strategies for increasing compliance with social distancing measures and testing access to employees and residents

Existing efforts

- DOC has increased mask production and provision of masks to incarcerated individuals

Recommendation details

- Review existing protocols for cleaning and provision of basic hygiene products to identify working
- Continue expanding widespread testing strategies as needed to proactively address potential transmission in facilities
- Increase employee uptake of best practices for COVID-19 risk mitigation with ongoing communication of COVID risks and increased accountability for noncompliance (e.g., mandated leave)
- Reduce transmission from employees to residents in congregate settings by facilitating employer authorization for site setup and/or guiding employers to resources for additional testing
- Review existing industry-specific educational materials on COVID-19 for employers to assess effectiveness



3 Coordinate with community partners to increase access to PPE (masks and gloves) for DE residents in congregant and high density living situations, especially targeting geographies hardest hit by COVID

Sub-recommendation

3.1 Develop a system of ongoing reporting and monitoring to coordinate with community organizations in providing masks and gloves for individuals in need of resources to meet basic PPE needs

Existing efforts

- Hospitals discuss PPE concerns on monthly call with Office of Emergency Med Services

Recommendation details

- Identify community organizations as State partners and build plan for partners to report PPE capacity by type (masks, gloves, etc.) on regular basis
- Establish statewide pool of resources that are designated for identified community partners in need of assistance
- Develop clear protocol for requests for PPE to proactively manage supply and equitably distribute resources across community partners



4 Work with community organizations on culturally-sensitive resident education about COVID risks and safety guidelines

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

4.1 Partner with community organizations that have existing initiatives, and centralize resources to lower barriers to access

- Lt. Governor’s office partnered with community organizations to distribute resources, and DCF Strategic Response Fund distributes funds to organizations

- Use existing relationships to identify more initiatives
- Activate faith-based communities and emergency day care centers
- Develop system for organizations to apply for State partnership
- Increase 2-way communication and visibility
- Coordinate between State and large nonprofits to centralize information about seeking resources to administrative overhead and increase capacity

4.2 Launch coordinated public relations campaign to promote transmission-reducing practices, including messaging designed to reach vulnerable populations

- State efforts have disseminated information in Spanish and Creole, and have adapted messaging to improve testing turnout

- Create diverse messaging plan (e.g., TV/radio vs. print for lower literacy, social media for younger age groups)
- Produce messaging in languages to serve all Delawareans (e.g., include non-English materials like Spanish and Creole)
- Refine messaging to reflect values of target populations (e.g., emphasizing risk of transmission to family members or risk of having to expand closures)

4.3 Provide training and toolkits for educators and educational institutions to ensure awareness of and alignment with state guidelines for safe operations

- Develop online training modules and a regularly updated State website to keep educators up-to-date on state guidance for safe operations
- Provide toolkits for educators to share with students and families, with targeted messaging for specific demographics:
 - Family members with limited English proficiency
 - Students with special needs
 - Early childhood education



5 Increase home access to wireless broadband with infrastructural investment and support for low-income residents to enable access, education, and telemedicine

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>5.1 Coordinate with carriers and local jurisdictions to rapidly expand wireless broadband access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DE 2017 legislation facilitated small cell technology expansion, and rural wireless update will be completed in July 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass further legislation to allow carriers to develop infrastructure for small cell technology expansion, which can boost signal of existing hotspots in low income areas Accelerate tower building as part of rural wireless expansion and monitor community needs upon project completion Focus future efforts on increasing home connectivity through provision of Mifi and connected devices in addition to expanded broadband access
<p>5.2 Onboard unconnected households to increase access, especially for low-income individuals and rural communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State partnership with Bloosurf for rural wireless update committed \$2M from State to build 14 towers and lay fiber-optic cable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop public media campaign via radio, TV, and automated calls to increase public awareness of accessibility to internet As needed, develop wired solutions where capital investment from ISPs for wireless broadband has been prohibitively high
<p>5.3 Use earmarked funds and identify additional funding sources to increase State visibility of overall coverage and connectedness, especially for low-income individuals</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund infrastructure and data collection on widespread broadband access (e.g., conducting speed tests) Expand digital access by catalyzing private and public partnerships among telecom companies and local municipalities Educate municipalities about the benefit of 4G/5G installation efforts Provides increased access for low-income households with low or no digital access



6 For healthcare providers, expand capacity for interpretive services

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

6.1 Incentivize healthcare providers to increase the number of frontline healthcare workers who are fluent in languages other than English (e.g., Spanish, Haitian Creole)

- Language Access Plan
- ChristianaCare Services

- If not already in place, develop metrics to track and assess access to Spanish-speaking and other language providers at all points of care (e.g., reception, nursing staff, doctors)
- Ensure interpretation available at all stages of engagement with healthcare services (across different types of healthcare professionals)
- Addresses needs of residents who primarily speak languages other than English

6.2 Provide funding for hospitals and clinics to contract with video remote interpretation services to expand interpreter capacity

- Delaware Valley Translators Association

- Expand capacity of local hospitals to provide interpretive services by contracting with existing large-scale video interpretive services firms
- Provide access to mixed services, where some in-person interpretation is available as needed but increased access to video expands capacity of in-person interpreters
- Build on growing infrastructure and uptake of telehealth
- Reduces need for higher risk in-person interactions and utilization of PPE



7 Increase testing accessibility, allocation, and proactive sentinel programs for Black and Latino populations and other vulnerable populations

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Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

7.1 Increase testing allocation and uptake in Black and Latino populations to achieve a positive test rate within the target range

The State's updated testing plan includes a focus on vulnerable populations and minority communities, and has recently increased testing in zip codes in need (e.g., Laurel, Seaford)

- Increase test kit distribution to Latino communities, as a goal of <10% positivity would require at least 20,000 more tests for Latino individuals¹
- Allocate state lab capacity to run tests for uninsured and highest at-risk populations in case of capacity constraints
- Partner with community leaders and healthcare providers, including FQHCs, to build clarity and trust around purpose of testing

7.2 Increase accessibility of testing resources and sites for the Black and Latino populations

FQHCs and hospital systems have been operating mobile clinics and testing facilities for uninsured individuals across all three Delaware counties

- Establish a centralized resource center to provide information touch point for residents who lack digital access
- Add testing sites in zip codes with high percent positivity for Black and Latino populations, and reduce barriers to site authorization
- Leverage faith-based communities as nexus for testing resources
- Coordinate across emergency day care centers to extend operations to allow for parents to access testing resources
- Build additional mobile testing networks and walk-up sites for individuals without transportation
- Expand testing site hours of operation beyond work hours

1. Achieving WHO recommended target of <5% positive test rate would require testing ~80% of Latino population in Delaware at minimum



7 Increase testing accessibility, allocation, and proactive sentinel programs for Black and Latino populations and other vulnerable populations

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Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>7.3 Partner with non-profits and other groups to increase access to testing for vulnerable populations (e.g., people with behavioral health conditions, in congregate living) and transient populations (e.g., homeless, recently incarcerated)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review protocols to screen and test individuals at particularly vulnerable entry and exit touchpoints within the State system to assess opportunities to maximize accessibility Partner with community organizations working with transient individuals to facilitate access to testing
<p>7.4 Expand sentinel surveillance testing and reduce restrictions to be eligible for testing</p>	<p>The State's testing plan includes sentinel surveillance testing, currently being rolled out in hospitals, primary care, FQHCs, urgent cares, and DPH clinics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a sentinel testing program among meatpacking plants and other essential workers to identify outbreaks early Partner with employers, particularly those of at-risk populations, to incentivize regular employee testing and reduce potential financial burden of having to miss work after testing positive



8 Expand contact tracing program, hiring and training displaced workers from most affected communities as contact tracers to maximize engagement and accuracy of information

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

8.1 Prioritize hiring of field tracers for communities with high rates of untraced contacts

The State has planned to hire 40 field contact tracers from communities in which they will work, in partnership with Healthy Communities Delaware

- Increase field tracing for populations with lower rates of cell phone ownership and usage
- Collaborate across tracing network to shift capacity to where it is needed most (e.g., Creole speaking tracers during outbreak among Haitian population)
- Increase Spanish and Creole language capabilities of telephonic tracers
- Partner with community providers and leaders to build clarity and trust around purpose of contact tracing

8.2 Partner with neighboring states in Northeast coalition to identify best practices for effective contact tracing of vulnerable populations

Delaware is working with NORC of UChicago and their partner analytics firm Enovational to bring rigorous data collection and public health expertise in their contact tracing program

- Develop two-way feedback system for community contact tracers to share frequent feedback about potential barriers to reaching community members or getting accurate information
- Apply and share best practices for contact tracing of vulnerable populations among neighboring consortium states (e.g., CT, RI)
- Utilize partnership with NORC and Enovational to develop analytics and understand factors that increase likelihood of contact tracing success in vulnerable populations

9 Ensure continuity of healthcare facilities, encourage patients to address chronic care needs, and increase access to care for Black, Latino, and medically vulnerable populations

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>9.1 Support ability of healthcare facilities in underserved areas to stay operational</p>	<p>On 5/20, DHSS announced resumption of elective and non-urgent medical procedures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit healthcare operations in underserved geographies only when necessary (e.g., when occupancy of closest ICU increases X% over Y days) • Expedite access to earmarked federal funding (e.g., HHS Provider Relief, Paycheck Protection Program) • Identify/train resources with experience applying to federal programs to provide technical assistance (e.g., grant-writing assistance)
<p>9.2 Encourage residents to address chronic care needs by coordinating with community leaders to build trust and spread messaging</p>	<p>Healthy Communities Delaware is increasing partnerships with grassroots organizations and individual community advocates to build trust</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with community organizations, leaders, and influencers to build list of community health leaders for each Delaware locality • Implement state-wide faith-based model to educate residents in high comorbidity hotspot regions • Partner with neighborhood captains to communicate benefits of preventative care and ensure that neighborhood leaders are connected to healthcare providers such as FQHCs to ensure access to care
<p>9.3 Increase access to care for Black, Latino, and medically vulnerable populations by establishing tailored care delivery options with reimbursement parity</p>	<p>The Delaware legislature extended the Governor's order permitting telemedicine where no preexisting relationship existed and only audio capabilities are available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail plans for care in the community to match the digital, mobility, and literacy needs of the community (e.g., telehealth, drive-through, walk-up, curbside, availability of interpreters) • Enact reimbursement parity for telemedicine and community care delivery most utilized by underserved populations, including mental health services and medication assisted treatment • Ensure continued availability of naloxone kits

10 Develop a proactive plan and guidelines for allocation of healthcare resources in the event of a shortage

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>10.1 Coordinate hospital patient volumes between Delaware facilities through DHSS and the State Health Operations Center, based on patient risk and capacity constraints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitals communicate their capacity on a daily basis to the Office of Emergency Med Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build plan for DHSS and hospitals to coordinate patient transfers during Wave 2 Develop and socialize transfer guidelines, accounting for hospital capacities and risks to patient health associated with a potential transfer Determine how to monitor capacity to communicate potential coordination/transfer opportunities in real time
<p>10.2 Encourage residents to address chronic care needs by coordinating with community leaders to build trust and spread messaging</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent of Delaware State support, hospitals lent PPE among one another during first wave and have entered into arrangements to share PPE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with providers, including users with historic PPE surpluses and shortages, to identify if there is a need for the State to support a PPE exchange/loan program Establish criteria for PPE distribution from State stockpile that factors in medical vulnerability of population served by potential recipients Proactively coordinate with community health clinics, FQHCs, and small-scale health providers to identify anticipated PPE needs
<p>10.3 Consider advance guidelines related to care allocation in case of severe shortage to ensure clear protocols for populations with pre-existing conditions</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop clear guidelines for administering care in the event of limited hospital capacity Partner with healthcare providers from diverse health institutions to identify and address concerns related to capacity constraints Set ongoing monthly meetings to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess efficiency of coordination and communication across statewide health system assess utility of current protocols and revise as needed



11 Increase data availability across key demographics for testing, transmission, and mortality rates to target interventions and improve health outcomes

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>11.1 Collect geographic testing and treatment data that includes household, workplace, and testing site for more insights related to work and home transmission and testing availability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Healthy Community Data Portal has data by zip code and county 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive data will facilitate rapid response to incoming data for most at-risk communities For test collection and reporting, guidelines should encourage view across household, workplace, and test site At State level, encourage consistency in racial/ethnic identification across data sources
<p>11.2 Increase visibility of State health data (e.g., all causes for deaths) as part of comprehensive COVID data dashboard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delaware Health Tracker and Community Dashboards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add data to the overall COVID dashboard on My Health Community Data Portal on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) rates of high risk comorbidities (b) mortality due to other causes Communicate additional risks to community members about negative health externalities of COVID
<p>11.3 Track more comprehensive demographic data, incl. more racial categorizations, household structure, gender, etc. to be included in publicly available data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My Healthy Community Data Portal has data by some racial categories, age, and gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses need to reducing amount of data with identities unknown At State level, encourage consistency in racial/ethnic identification across data sources Track broad range of demographic data, including race, ethnicity, gender, household structure



1 Expand emergency financial assistance funds for low income workers impacted by pandemic

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

1.1 Increase emergency financial assistance to low income workers in industries facing prolonged challenges

- Delaware Strategic Response Fund
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (expires 7/31)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for independent contractors (expires 7/31)

- Leverage both public and philanthropic funding to target financial assistance toward low income workers in impacted industries
- Offer State and local tax incentives to businesses offering payment assistance to customers—e.g., payment plans or deferrals)
- Establish both ongoing partnerships and allow organizations providing assistance to apply for one-time relief grants or loans

1.2 Leverage philanthropic dollars and community partners for emergency financial assistance for Delawareans ineligible for public benefits (e.g., undocumented workers)

- Safe Communities Coalition launched the Delaware Immigrant Fund to provide cash assistance to some of the ~30K undocumented immigrants living in DE

- Engage philanthropic community to continue to provide support to undocumented workers unable to access public funds
- Ensure that ID requirements and other proof of “availability to work” are not barriers for undocumented workers to access paid medical leave, medical care/free testing

1.3 Expand rental subsidy and eviction arbitration support for renters and mortgage assistance and foreclosure support for homeowners

- Delaware Housing Assistance Program; Delaware Mortgage Assistance Program-DHSA used community partnership to expand capacity when demand for Housing Assistance Program exceeded capacity

- DSHA to prepare surge staff capacity to process applications, given expiration of federal unemployment and eviction moratorium
- Extend rental subsidy program through pandemic; incentivize landlords to offer rental assistance, target impacted workers (e.g. via tax incentives)
- Support preservation of affordable housing through targeted mortgage assistance to landlords and grants/loans for funding operations
- Launch community-based education campaign to ensure residents know their rights and options for assistance
- Extend partnership with hotel/motels for longer term transitional housing, including long term lease and purchase options



2 Maximize enrollment in existing public social safety net programs; State agencies to proactively prepare to increase surge capacity in event of deepening economic crises

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

2.1 Work with community organizations on enrollment drives for newly unemployed and others eligible for State and Federal programs

- Existing case managers, social workers and community organization assisting enrollment

- Launch State enrollment drive, leveraging organizations already engaged in case management and which support enrollment in public programs
- Focus on increasing uptake of State and Federal programs (e.g., General Assistance, WIC, SNAP/TANF, Medicaid)
- Establish both ongoing partnerships and grant funding/contracts to community organizations assisting enrollment drive

2.2 Expand eligibility, increase benefit and extend deadlines where possible for local and State programs

- Existing DHSS, General Assistance, DOL, DOT and Housing programs

- Consider legislation to expand eligibility for local and State assistance programs (e.g., TANF, WIC), Section 8 housing assistance to those with criminal backgrounds, State unemployment benefits for independent contractors)
- Temporarily increase benefits and relax use restrictions in existing State programs-e.g.,) for Delaware UI, Purchase of Care, and DOT assistance programs for Uber/Lyft vouchers

2.3 Agencies to proactively prepare surge capacity for processing unemployment claims and social services applications in the event of deepening economic crisis

- DHSA used community partnership to expand capacity when demand for Housing Assistance Program exceeded capacity

- Agencies to advance plan for staff and digital capacity needs according to Pandemic resurgence and economic scenarios
- Target and train displaced workers for employment in new State and local positions and MBEs for temporary contracts-claims processing, contact tracing



3 Support community-based organizations/non-profits providing financial assistance

Sub-recommendation

3.1 Partner with and support local community organizations with pre-existing relationships and trust with impacted communities for implementation of economic/food assistance, recovery and health programs

Existing efforts

- Food Bank of DE provides food assistance, and further food pantry access is available through the DE Helpline (dial 211)
- First State Community Action Agency and the Rural Health Initiative are working to ameliorate economic and health concerns for low-income and rural communities

Recommendation details

- Identify, partner with, and direct grants/funding to organizations and non-profits that provide direct service in areas of greatest need
- Activate trusted groups and leaders who can deliver messages to local communities in order to increase participation in recovery programs and solicit feedback to understand barriers
- Prioritize building a network of local support that includes Spanish and Creole speaking staff members, to ensure translation services are not a barrier to entry



4 Expand incentives to increase access to capital and credit for minority and women-owned businesses

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

4.1 Increase funding for and capacity of Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) in Delaware

- Develop network collaboration for CDFIs in Delaware to encourage affiliation and collaboration, and identify shared targets and metrics for assessing progress towards goals
- Provide low-interest loan and/or grant capital to CDFIs
- Offer credit enhancements that make it easier to lend

4.2 For financial institutions, increase employer partnerships in DE that increase access to capital and incentivize savings and retirement funds, especially for MBEs

- Stand By Me Negocios partners with the DE Hispanic Commission to bring financial literacy and stability to minority communities

- Develop targeted initiatives to attract MBEs to banking and establishing credit lines through mixed services offerings, including advisory services
- Lower initial investment requirements to attract small enterprises
- Set internal KPIs related to growth metrics for MBEs
- For financial institutions, provide incentives to employers when more of their employees are enrolled in retirement plans and/or when employees save higher percentages of total income
- Increase ongoing touchpoints between financial institution partners, employees and community members to provide advisory services about retirement and savings plans



5 Expand eligibility of State loan programs and partner with local CDFI's to drive uptake for existing public pandemic aid programs (e.g., PPP, HELP), reducing barriers where possible, and proactively target MBEs and WBEs

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

5.1 Reduce requirements related to credit access and industry type that limit eligibility for grants and loans for small business owners

- Hospitality Emergency Loan Program (H.E.L.P.) offers loans to businesses in hospitality or personal services with revenue less than \$2.5M

- Proactively target MBEs and WBEs for uptake of pandemic aid programs, establishing targets and tracking metrics
- Revise existing grant programs to broaden possible uses for funds and expand accessibility to more businesses in DE
- Advocate for changes in federal policies that limit eligibility for grants for businesses based on credit access
- Addresses issues of access to credit and financial services in urban and low-income areas

5.2 Offer support services for small and minority business owners to receive assistance for grant/loan applications

- Division of Small Businesses offers resources, FAQs, and contact information for applicants on their website

- Create support center dedicated to small and minority-owned businesses that provides live assistance to business owners seeking
- Offer assistance across multiple media, including web-based platforms and phone
- Provide long lead time before application opening and maintain open application to allow applicants to prepare and submit materials
- Review and address issues with clarity of guidelines and application process that hindered access in previous rounds of state-sponsored loan applications
- Consider advocated for placement of Minority Business Development Agency Business Center in Delaware, and work with existing Delaware-based resource partners to support MBEs



6 Implement measures for equitable State procurement opportunities and set goals for MBE participation in contracts awarded by the State

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

<p>6.1 Increase number of minority-owned businesses registered with the Office of Supplier Diversity (OSD) by streamlining certification process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSD currently has a list of 750+ minority-owned businesses/enterprises (MBEs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish web-based portal, electronic application, and centralized system for certification to connecting MBEs with other corporations to increase utilization Launch campaign across all three counties in Delaware to register MBEs with the OSD, with target of increasing number of registered businesses by 100% Launch survey of MBEs to assess awareness of OSD and services offered through affiliation
<p>6.2 Provide state-supported financial incentive to encourage inclusion of MBEs for procurement and contracting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplier Diversity Council aims to identify impediments and create opportunities for MWVBES The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program increases contracting opportunities for MBEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide tax credits to corporations that utilize MBEs for a minimum percentage of overall annual business (e.g., award 15% of contracts to MBEs to receive credit) Addresses need to increase utilization of MBEs in Delaware economy
<p>6.3 Track progress towards Set specific targets for MBE participation in State procurement and State-supported projects and track progress towards targets as part of broader strategic plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Supplier Diversity Council establishes initiatives to boost MBE participation rates in procurement and contracting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strategic plan for tracking and responding to key metrics related to equitable procurement and awarding contracts for MBEs Consider reviewing and revising eligibility requirements for relevant certification for state projects Identify key metrics for tracking equitable procurement and contracts awarded by the State by identifying industries, locations, and demographics of businesses receiving State grants Incentivize State agencies and school districts to add specific targets related to greater inclusion of MBEs in contracts and procurement Share public data and report on progress related to strategic plan



7 Support grants/loans for COVID-related expenses and entrepreneurship, with targeted outreach to MBE's and ensure any ED programs and projects created target MBE's

Continued on next page

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

7.1 Expand entrepreneurship loans/grants and accelerators, designating allotment of program funds for MBEs specifically

- EDGE Grants provide up to \$100k to qualifying MWVBES in STEM fields and \$50K to businesses in non-STEM fields

- Expand existing entrepreneurship grants/loans to specifically target MBEs in highly impacted sectors
- Publicly designate target portion of entrepreneurship program funds for MBEs

7.2 Augment loans, grants, subsidies, and other forgivable financial measures to support businesses impacted by the crisis, designating allotment of program funds for MBEs specifically

- Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) assistance from the SBA was made available alleviate COVID's economic impact for small businesses

- Support MBEs through loans, grants subsidies, and other forgivable financial measures (both new and expanded): e.g., portion of CARES act package directed specifically to MBEs, matching grants, forgivable loans for PPE/inventory repurchases/required technological or business model buildouts due to COVID, etc.
- Publicly designate target portion of program funds for MBEs



7 Support grants/loans for COVID-related expenses and entrepreneurship, with targeted outreach to MBE's and ensure any ED programs and projects created target MBE's

Continued from previous page

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

7.3 Assist MBEs in adapting to new working and servicing models by supporting capabilities and infrastructure buildouts

- Tech Impact Delaware is offers free remote working trainings

- Support COVID-related expenses and capabilities buildouts for MBEs to adapt to new working and servicing models (e.g., contactless payments, digital enablement, web/mobile servicing, etc.)
- Publicly designate target portion of program funds for MBEs

7.4 Support joint public-private sector mentorship programs to help entrepreneurs and small business owners overcome challenges to pivot and grow their business, with particular focus on MBEs

- The Delaware Small Business Chamber (DSBC) facilitates a member mentorship program

- Partner with private institutions to provide mentorship opportunities (e.g., workshops, industry mentor matching, educational resources, seminars, etc.) to assist MBEs and minority entrepreneurs in growing/pivoting their business due to COVID
- Publicly designate target portion of program funds/scope for MBEs



8 Establish incentives for low income families to build emergency savings funds to weather pandemic-related economic uncertainty

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>8.1 Provide tax credits for savings and retirement planning targeted at low income and minority households</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally, the IRS offers Tax Credits for Small Employer Pension Plan Startup Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer tax credits for savings and retirement planning to provide financial incentive for savings, targeted specifically to low-income and minority households
<p>8.2 Review eligibility requirements for social assistance programs to avoid disincentivizing personal savings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sens. Coon, Brown introduced ASSET Act in 2020 to recommend increasing asset limits for TANF, SNAP, and LIHEAP, from \$2000 to \$10,000 for an individual and \$3,000 to \$20,000 for a couple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review eligibility for programs and where possible, seek opportunities to expand eligibility to reach more populations in-need, reducing compliance costs for participants and opening up programs to greater share of in-need Delaware residents Advocate for removal of asset limits for cash welfare, food assistance, and other social assistance programs Develop community funds couple with resident education programs to provide alternative savings opportunities for families to build assets and receive social assistance as needed
<p>8.3 Create programs to boost savings for low-income and minority populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Banking Delaware Initiative resulted in three financial institutions being brought to the “banking desert” on Route 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create programs intended to boost savings, including implementing a baby bonds trust program for low-income household children, and removing administrative and card issuance fees for government-issued debit cards (e.g., SNAP cards, unemployment insurance, etc.)



9 Continue investment in critical programs focused on economic mobility

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

9.1 In budget constrained environment, maintain funding for State programs that address wealth inequality and promote economic mobility

- Existing State economic mobility programs

- Maintain funding for programs that address intergenerational wealth inequality by promoting economic mobility in key areas including home ownership, workforce mobility, early childhood education, welfare, etc.

9.2 Continue to support Delaware higher education institutions and community colleges to avoid tuition increases or reduction in student loan/grants

- Delaware administers 12 State-sponsored higher education financial aid programs through the Delaware Higher Education Office

- Prevent cuts in funding to Delaware education institutions to avoid negative financial/educational impact to students, particularly low-income and minority students



10 Expand/Create workforce placement and development programs, with focus on service sector incentives to businesses to hire from non-traditional talent pools

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

10.1 Provide incentives to businesses to hire from non-traditional talent pools and reduce eligibility requirements

- Delaware offers the Work Opportunity Tax Credit to businesses that hire individuals from target groups

- Provide wage subsidies and other incentives to businesses that hire people in target communities (e.g., residents using social assistance programs, living in Opportunity communities) to expand eligibility to reflect widely unemployed population in current crisis
- Encourage reduction in requirements where not strictly required (e.g., reducing educational attainment requirements, serving those with criminal backgrounds)

10.2 Partner with private sector on training & employment opportunities for workforce development, focus on service sector placement into growth industries

- Workforce Development Board provides policy guidance and oversight to WIOA
- The Wilmington Alliance works to create a vibrant workforce development program to match Wilmington-based citizens with Wilmington-based employers in banking and construction

- Develop workforce development program to train new employees in fields where State lacked critical capacity (e.g., unemployment claims processing, contact tracing)
- Target displaced workers for employment in new positions
- Offer wage subsidies for private sector businesses to provide training/re-skilling opportunities, with intent to hire
- Provide wraparound services (e.g., case management, transit, childcare, professional development, living subsidy during training, behavioral health support, flexible hours) to boost accessibility of training programs and success of placement
- Increase capacity of the government as an employer to ramp up surge capacity across agencies who need more staff (see rec 2.3)



1 1 Subsidize supportive services for both existing workforce and unemployed (e.g., childcare, public transit, broadband)

Continued on next page

Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

11.1 Continue or expand subsidy programs for caregivers (e.g. childcare, adult care) for low-income families

- Delaware childcare subsidy program provides childcare to low income families, with co-pay waived during first four months of pandemic
- Under EO, child care sites received reimbursement for vacant slots since April, which will eventually phase out

- For Delaware childcare subsidy programs, identify public and private sources of financial support to sustain subsidies for childcare for low-income families
- Develop public awareness campaign to ensure that families in need of additional childcare support are aware of the program and able to receive aid

11.2 Create/expand public transit commuter subsidy programs for low-income families

- During pandemic, DART offered free bus rides to students and suspended fares, is considering discounted fares as part of long-term COVID strategy

- Subsidize public transit costs for low-income populations (e.g., indigent bus passes to low-income passengers, free shuttle services, subsidized train cards, etc.)
- Develop a plan to ensure delivery of paratransit services by supplementing necessary labor and services in the event of reduced capacity (e.g., due to strike, social distancing, illness)



1 1 Subsidize supportive services for both existing workforce and unemployed (e.g., childcare, public transit, broadband)

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Sub-recommendation

Existing efforts

Recommendation details

11.3 Provide increased funding and incentives for schools and districts to increase internet connectivity for Delaware students

- CARES Act funding was used for rural wireless expansion

- Ensure equal access to remote learning by offering subsidies towards internet access and laptop access
- Provide connected devices at a reduced rate to schools that provide devices to students in need (e.g., low-income students)
- Increase awareness of free WiFi at existing locations (e.g. libraries, parks, municipal buildings) and expand number of schools and municipally owned buildings providing free WiFi
- Utilize existing social services for low-income individuals to develop voucher program for internet services and devices, increasing uptake agencies also have an existing base of folks

11.4 Expand high speed internet connectivity for Delaware low income and rural residents

- During pandemic, county governments launched free wifi hotspots at county buildings, parks, and free libraries, and DOE has earmarked funds that are being used for wireless expansion

- Fund infrastructure for wireless broadband and data collection on widespread broadband access (e.g., conducting speed tests)
- Provide data plan grants/subsidies to individuals looking for jobs
 - Local governments can negotiate favorable rates with carriers to expedite implementation and increase reach
- Rapidly expand small cell technology (e.g., streetlight hotspots) by negotiated start-up capital costs with carriers
- Utilize existing social services for low-income individuals to develop voucher program for internet services and devices, increasing uptake agencies also have an existing base of folks



12 Provide workforce access to sufficient protective equipment and safety measures (e.g., PPE) & support workforce impacted by COVID-19 (e.g., paid family leave)

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>12.1 Provide workforce access to sufficient protective equipment and safety measures (e.g., PPE) & support workforce impacted by COVID-19 (e.g. paid family leave)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintained list of PPE suppliers in Delaware as part of Business to Business Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require businesses to provide access to sufficient protective/safety measures for workforce-including PPE, disinfectants, proper social distancing, health checks Provide employees mechanisms to report lack of adequate protective/safety measures (e.g., hotline to report noncompliant employers)
<p>12.2 Support workforce impacted by COVID-19 through increased access to paid medical and family leave</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFRCA, enacted through the CARES Act, is available to workers through the end of 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public awareness of right to paid family and medical leave through Family First Coronavirus Response Act (FFRCA) and employers' access to reimbursement through FFRCA Partner with employers to establish clarity in established processes utilizing medical or family leave under different scenarios (e.g., individual is sick; family member is sick; have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19)



13 Provide necessary supports for schools, students, and families to navigate flexibly through multiple possible scenarios, ensuring safety and continuous access to education and childcare

Sub-recommendation	Existing efforts	Recommendation details
<p>13.1 Provide relief for public K-12 schools to help recover costs through a grant process for eligible expenses include PPE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CARES Act provided relief funds to schools through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish fund for public K-12 schools to ensure safe operation and be reimbursed for COVID-related expenses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal protective equipment - building improvements protecting against the spread of COVID19 (e.g., ventilation system upgrades) - technology or classroom equipment
<p>13.2 Address food insecurity for students who typically rely on schools for meals</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop clear processes for students and families to access free and reduced meals under all possible scenarios for school reopening • Clearly communicate to families where and how they can access meals through school meal programs • Use previous school year's data to identify trends in total uptake of free meals program and the need for new interventions
<p>13.3 Ensure continuation of support for students who rely on schools for ancillary services (e.g., mental health counseling)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify educational leaders for regular meetings to assess ongoing needs of students and families • Review existing protocols for supporting students utilizing ancillary services (e.g., mental health counseling, occupational therapy, accommodations for disabilities) and develop revised protocols to flexibly match possible scenarios for schooling • Conduct family survey to assess service utilization and unmet needs • Provide necessary resources to Department of Children, Youth, and Families to extend services to families in need of behavioral health supports