



COMMUNITY
LEADERS
COALITION

Date: November 6, 2020

To: Napa County Legislative Subcommittee

From: Community Leaders Coalition, Open & Effective Government Subcommittee

Re: Critical Recommendations for Napa County's 2021 Policy Platform

The CLC has identified the following recommendations as critical to being addressed by the Legislative Subcommittee for the 2021 Policy Platform:

Census 2020

The census does not end when counting operations stop. Once the Census Bureau finishes collecting data it begins a complex and highly specialized series of activities to process and improve the accuracy of the raw data. The Census Bureau initially requested six months for this phase in its COVID-adjusted operational plan yet the timeline was later revised to include only three months for data analysis. This threatens a complete and accurate analysis of census data and could affect the count across the country.

Proposed Actions

- Support legislation that extends the census deadline for reporting apportionment data to the President by 120 days to allow for accurate analysis of count data.

Disaster Recovery

Napa County continues to be severely impacted by disasters with two major wildfires already this year. Vulnerable populations are being disproportionately impacted across the county and there are fewer resources available for recovery with each disaster. It is imperative that the County of Napa leverage all policies and resources that prioritize preparedness and recovery for vulnerable populations.

Proposed Actions

- Support legislation and policies that increase communication and fund language access for individuals with limited English proficiency.
- Support legislation and policies that provide resources for preparedness specifically for vulnerable populations.
- Support and encourage legislation that prioritizes emergency relief for vulnerable populations including lost wages, rental assistance, and rehousing services.

- Support and encourage legislation that funds disaster resilience programs at the local level.

COVID-19 Recovery/Response:

COVID-19 continues to have devastating impacts on Napa County. Most disproportionately affected are vulnerable groups but also families that are experiencing vulnerabilities for the first time due to the pervasive impact on the local economy. Families are faced with difficult choices between rent, food, child care or other basic essentials. As a whole, the County must continue to leverage resources for COVID relief and prioritize those who are being most significantly affected.

Proposed Actions

- Seek and support direct federal and state funding to local government agencies for COVID response and relief.
- Seek and support funding that prioritizes relief for vulnerable populations.
- Support legislation that provides financial relief and resources to the child care industry as well as incentives that encourage employers to support childcare.
- Oppose any legislation that would prevent immigrants from receiving COVID relief resources.
- Seek and support legislation that provides financial relief for small businesses.
- The County of Napa should continue its support of the Affordable Care Act as stated in the Federal Legislative Platform for 2020.
- Support legislation that closes the digital divide and provides funding and resources for broadband access and expansion.
- Support legislation that continues to prevent evictions and provide relief and resources to tenants affected by COVID-19.

Equity:

Long-standing systemic health and social inequities have put many people at greater risk for being impacted by COVID-19 or other disasters. There is increasing evidence that some racial and ethnic minority groups are being disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The data shows that 24% of the county's population is Latinx but account for over 57% of COVID cases. In a survey conducted by First 5 Napa, 45% of Latinx/BIPOC parents listed that they were experiencing financial difficulties as a result of COVID in comparison to 25% of white families. 27% of Latinx/BIPOC parents said they were having difficulty meeting the basic needs of their families in comparison to only 7% of white parents. We must leverage policy to more directly approach such inequities in our community.

Proposed Actions

- Seek and support legislation that provides funding and resources for counties to integrate diversity, equity, and inclusions into county operations.
- Seek and support legislation focused on advancing racial justice.

- Support legislation that recognizes that social equity and justice is essential to agriculture, business and community sustainability and solidifies and formalizes actions and protections for farmworker equity and safety.