GREATER NEW ORLEANS FOUNDATION


Bonita Robertson
Director for Civic Leadership
Housekeeping Notes

• All audience members are muted
• Please use the **Q&A Feature** to submit questions
• If you experience any technology or internet issues, please dial **1-312-626-6799**, the webinar ID is **938 3832 3864**. This will allow you to listen in to the presentation.
• This webinar is being recorded and will be emailed after the session
• A FAQ will also be emailed after the session

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Meet Our Experts!

Judy Reese Morse  
President & CEO  
Urban League Louisiana

Ashley Shelton  
Executive Director  
Power Coalition

State Representative Royce Duplessis  
Louisiana House of Representatives
The mission of the Urban League of Louisiana is to assist African Americans and other communities seeking equity to secure economic self-reliance, parity and civil rights.

- Education and Youth Development
- Workforce Development
- Entrepreneurship and Small Business
- Policy and Social Justice Advocacy
Advocacy is in Our DNA

Recent Efforts Include:
• Act 223, State of Louisiana’s match for the Early Childhood Education (ECE) Fund
• Investing locally for maximum matching funds for Early Childhood Education
• SB102, a measure to end “Vitter sentences”
• 2020 Census: VOICE - Voicing Our Information for Census Equity
• Wake Up Geaux Vote
PROGRAMS AND OFFERINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

- Education Survey and Town Hall
- Virtual Job Fairs
- Virtual Small Business Supports
  - Webinars and Q&A sessions on Economic Injury Disaster Loans and the Paycheck Protection Plan

ADVOCACY IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

- Digital Census Day and virtual awareness
- Five Tele-town Halls
  - No, We’re Not Immune: The Impact of Coronavirus on African-American Whole Health in Louisiana
  - Four Part Series From Disparity to Parity: Examining the Social Determinants Impacting African-American Health
- Reform, Recover, Re-open
Reform, Recover, Re-Open: Essential Strategies for an Equitable COVID-19 Response in Louisiana

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY
✓ Employees and students should receive the protections of a Citizens Bill of Rights before returning to work and school.
✓ Rental and utility assistance programs should continue and expand for renters and landlords during this unprecedented time.
✓ We must invest in fresh food initiatives to address food insecurities in marginalized communities.

ECONOMIC SECURITY
✓ Workers who are incurring some amount of unavoidable risk from COVID-19 deserve additional hazard pay.
✓ We must increase minimum wage to increase the community’s purchasing power.
✓ We must be honest and relentless in our commitment to develop small businesses.
✓ We must lean on innovation to equitably spur our cultural economy.

*Full explanation of recommendations available at urbanleaguela.org under News and Publications

Ashley Shelton
Executive Director
Power Coalition
Update on Legislative Session, Upcoming Elections, and Census

- The legislature reconvened on May 4
- The budget is the top priority for most legislators. But the deadline is July 1st. We don’t know how the pandemic-induced recession will impact our state’s finances, so it’s prudent to wait as long as we can.
  - Will bills that don’t deal directly with essential functions/services get heard fairly or at all?
- We are looking at:
  - Gov. using emergency powers to extend Paid Sick Leave and/or remove state preemption of PSL
  - Expediting unrestricted Vote by Mail legislation or move it through executive order
  - Instituting new ability to pay framework for criminal fines and fees
  - Campaigns for our collective list of policy demands from nonprofit partners statewide
- Louisiana’s Presidential Primary was postponed until July 11, 2020. Municipal elections were postponed until August 15, 2020. Early Voting will be June 26-July 4, and August 1-8.
- The New Orleans City Council is only meeting to deal with essential services/immediate problems.
- The Census has extended the non-response follow-up period through August 14, 2020, and will begin door-to-door enumeration on May 28th, two weeks later than originally scheduled.

2020 Legislative Priorities

- Paid Sick Leave
  - Federal CARES Act Sick leave does not apply for up to 106 million Americans
- Vote by Mail
  - Over 65% of Americans support Vote By Mail according to recent polls
- Redistricting Proposals
  - Redistricting Transparency Website
  - Non-partisan redistricting advisory group
  - End to prison gerrymandering
- Ability to pay framework
  - Require judges, during or immediately after imposing a sentence in a case in which the defendant entered a plea in open court, to inquire whether the defendant has sufficient resources or income to immediately pay all or part of the fine and costs
Power Coalition’s Policy Demand Document

Roadmap to RECOVERY

- Avoid a Housing Crisis
- Protect Health and Safety in Jails, Prisons, Juvenile Facilities and Immigrant Detention Centers
- Protect Workers, Children & Families
- State Budget
- Vote
- Protect Democracy

Protect Workers, Children & Families

- Approximately 260,000 unemployment claims went unfiled in Louisiana in the first few weeks of the pandemic’s spread, and we know our most vulnerable workers and families will be hit the hardest by the resulting economic failures. Many worked don’t earn enough to stay up for a day, can’t afford health and care, and don’t have access to affordable healthcare.

- As we’re clearly seeing during this crisis, these are essential workers. We should treat them that way.

- Governor Edwards should use his emergency powers to enact statewide paid sick leave or give local governments the ability to enact local paid family leave so that workers can receive the emergency sick leave they need to care for their families.

- Raise the state minimum wage and/or give local governments the freedom to raise local wage floors so more workers will have the means to take local economic recovery and combat the impact of this pandemic.

- Expand access to unemployment insurance so that workers can receive the maximum benefits under Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

- Provide grants and small business loans to child care providers who have closed their businesses or suffered financial losses during the pandemic.

- Immediately apply for a waiver to remove the five-year waiting period for lawfully residing immigrant children to become eligible for Medicaid.

- Ensure fair equity, especially racial equity, during school closures by collecting data about how schools, teachers, and students are interacting during this time of distance learning, and providing children who are falling behind with extra instruction to make up for lost time.
**Vulnerable Populations**

- The most at-risk occupations for job loss during the crisis tend to be lower earning and with people with fewer liquid assets
- Black-White gaps in financial outcomes are largest in Louisiana

**Looking Forward**

- Vulnerable populations have been hit the hardest by this crisis so they are where we need to focus our recovery
- We must ensure safe ways to participate in upcoming elections
- 15% of jobs are not coming back
  - What does it look like to train and teach a new workforce
Next Steps

• This recording and the slides will be emailed to you

• visit our COVID-19 page for resources and our other webinar recordings: https://www.gnof.org/covid19-nonprofits/

• Please take our survey and give us your feedback. This will help us continue to bring you all relevant content and help us improve!