California COVID Justice: Recovery, Response & Repair

CAMPAIGN SUMMARY: California COVID Justice: Recovery, Response & Repair is a statewide campaign to strengthen the ability of California’s public, nonprofit, and grassroots public health infrastructure to (1) reduce the spread of COVID-19 in historically underinvested communities, (2) advocate for equity-focused state and local protections and interventions to mitigate the pandemic’s impact on key social determinants of health in these communities, and (3) build our collective capacity to dismantle the deeply imbedded systems and structures that perpetuate longstanding health disparities.

ROLE OF STEERING COMMITTEE: A 10–12–member Steering Committee of diverse leadership from across California will identify the most critical COVID-related challenges facing historically underinvested communities. They will guide development and implementation of a communications and advocacy campaign and recruit additional partners to create an echo chamber calling for state and local policy, programmatic, and resource solutions to mitigate COVID’s inequitable impacts. Where possible, the Campaign will build on existing statewide efforts.

TOPICS OF INTEREST: The committee will consider COVID-related issues such as:
- Support for public health infrastructure, including surveillance, laboratories, health orders, a diverse workforce, and the availability of COVID testing sites, trusted contact tracers, and vaccine access in high-risk communities.
- Enhancing related social determinants of health including access to healthy food, water, adequate housing, financial resources, health and mental health care, and other safety net services.

ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES: Based on input from the Steering Committee and subcommittees, Public Health Advocates will develop advocacy and communications strategies, and implement them with the support of the Steering Committee and others recruited from throughout the state.

FUNDERS: The Campaign is funded by these California health foundations: