



Unite to Save Our Lives Now!

We Demand Jobs Now for People Most Affected by COVID-19

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The People's Response Network demands **massive expansion of screening, testing**, contact tracing and follow-up with **JOBS NOW** for people from neighborhoods of color and rural areas most affected by COVID-19. Black and Latinx Chicagoans have the highest infection rate, and Black Chicagoans have the highest death rate. We must act now or thousands more will become infected and possibly die of COVID-19. The City of Chicago has budgeted at least [\\$65 Million for emergency COVID-19 spending](#). No announced funds have been for the city's own public health department and [no minority or women owned businesses](#) were allowed to apply until April 23, 2020. The State of Illinois has budgeted [\\$80 million for 3,800 contact tracers](#).

JOBS NOW

We demand thousands of contact tracers, community health workers, health educators, communicable disease investigators, lab techs, nurses, epidemiologists and more be **hired, trained and certified** by state, county and city **public health departments and federally qualified health centers (FQHC)**. Each worker must earn a minimum of **\$25/hour**, receive **full benefits**, have the **option to work full-time, join a union** and have meaningful accountability to the communities they serve. Thousands of additional jobs must be created by prioritizing **direct funding to** businesses owned and operated by **People of Color** to provide supplies, food services, construction, transportation and more.

This public health emergency requires a coordinated response aligned with local community needs and values. We **STRONGLY OPPOSE** any **private or non-profit entities**, including but not limited to [Partners in Health](#) or [Contrace](#), receiving any of OUR public \$\$ from federal, state or local governments to recruit, hire, train or certify ANY new COVID-19 workers in Illinois.

SCREENING AND TESTING

We demand **massive expansion of screening and testing** with follow-up at **walk-up sites**, including publicly-funded state, city, town, or county facilities and FQHCs, since [28% of Chicago families have NO car](#).

We demand **door-to-door screening, testing, and contact tracing** in **every neighborhood** to prevent thousands more from becoming infected and possibly dying of COVID-19.

We demand jobs, testing locations, and door to door screening be **prioritized to high risk communities** with the greatest [racial, health](#) and [economic](#) inequities.

We demand more high school and college programs, certificates, and degrees in public health fields.

We demand a **life-saving strategy** for Illinois **NOW**, ALL with certified public health workers who follow the **REQUIRED** safe, strict, best-practice rules below:

1. **Screen every employee** for COVID-19 **at every workplace** at the **start of their shift**. If they are sick, they are sent home with full pay from their employer, without a deduction **from their benefits**.
2. **Enforce use of PPE** for all workers, patients and customers. Ensure use of **barriers, sanitizing** routines, including daily deep cleanings and **social distancing** inside and outside of every workplace.
3. Provide **door-to-door screening, testing, contact tracing** and **follow-up** in all neighborhoods, especially those Black and Brown neighborhoods most affected, including all persons regardless of legal status.
4. Increase **capacity and operating hours** at every **Public Health Facility & FQHC**.
5. **Hire a full-time registered nurse for every school**.

PREPARE YOUTH FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CAREERS

6. Re-establish **health career certificate and degree programs** at all Chicago Community Colleges (CCC) beginning with those in the most affected COVID-19 areas: **Kennedy King, Olive Harvey, and Daley College-Velasquez Institute**. All CCC certificate and AA degree programs must have a **bridge to University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)** for a bachelor's degree.
7. Re-establish the **Chicago Public Schools (CPS) High School Students Nursing Program**, as part of **Career Technical Education (CTE)**, in those communities most affected by COVID-19. Expand and improve all **CPS health programs** in CTE. **All CPS health programs must have a bridge to both CCC & UIC**.

We **STRONGLY OPPOSE** contact tracing through ANY personal device including cell phones, computers, or tablets. We view this as an oppressive invasion of privacy that may lead to an increase in over-surveillance and unlawful arrests.