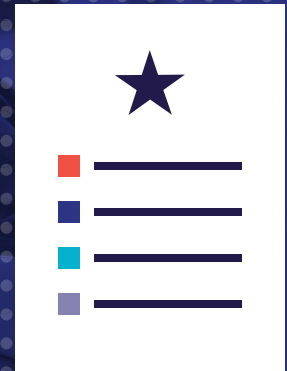


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# FEDERAL POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A SUMMARY



The COVID-19 pandemic offers our nation a unique opportunity to create a more accessible, affordable health care system. With guidance from elected officials, [real people](#), and our [Founders'](#) and [Entrepreneurs Councils](#), [USofCare](#) has identified a new set of Federal recommendations for Congress to address. We continue to see a need for meaningful national investment in our health care system, both to combat the current pandemic and to ensure we are prepared to fight the next one.

## Four Priorities to Meet People's Needs during COVID-19:

- ★ 1. Provide the accurate information and clear recommendations that people need to be safe from the virus.

Develop and deploy a plan for comprehensive testing and tracking to understand when it is safe to relax social distancing, as well as understanding and sharing what we know about COVID-19 and where it is spreading.

- Fund case identification, contact tracing, and investment in relevant infrastructure.
- Require data collection and comprehensive public reporting about COVID-19, including: demographic infection rates, treatment success, and therapy and vaccine development.

- ★ 2. Build a reliable health care system that is adequately resourced to support front-line workers and available when they need it—both now and after the pandemic.



- Establish bonus payments for frontline workers for the duration of the state emergencies and create a “combat pay” tax exclusion for those who are keeping us safe.
- Protect emergency service providers, ensure their families have the care they need, and commit to supporting the rehabilitation and care these workers will require after their service in the crisis.
- Keep our health care organizations afloat by supporting providers that rely on Medicare and Medicaid payments, and appropriate additional funding for behavioral health and social services.
- Build new public health and executive response infrastructure to develop countermeasures, deploy a crisis health care workforce, forecast threats, and otherwise respond to novel pathogens.
- Encourage innovation in telehealth and telemedicine by accelerating coverage and reimbursement of new technologies, products, and services to be deployed in a future crisis.

### ★ 3. Provide people with the financial and health care security they need to weather COVID-19.

- Increase SSI and Social Security benefits for the duration of the national emergency.
- Create new incentives for states to temporarily augment Medicaid eligibility.
- Support state budgets so they can continue to meet the spike in demand for services.
- Remove financial barriers to COVID-19 care, and stabilize the system with a new reinsurance program.
- Appropriate \$500 billion in state and local funding to ensure essential services continue.
- Ensure those losing jobs and income maintain access to affordable, quality health coverage.

### ★ 4. Build a COVID-19 response and health care system which cares for the most vulnerable.

- Offer shelter in hotels for people who are at-risk, especially those experiencing homelessness.
- Make sure family members are able to be present for loved ones battling COVID-19 and ensure home care workers are able to safely care for those in their charge.
- Put people who are newly unemployed to work in their communities.

[View a more in depth document here](#) —>

Let's build a system that works in sickness and in health.

Interested in working together? Talk to us: [help@usofcare.org](mailto:help@usofcare.org)