

Action Alert:

Let Your Values Be Heard, Your Voice Be Counted, Your Concerns Be Tallied!

(Apply The Pressure Of Public Opinion)

Tell your U.S. Senators to pass a new COVID Relief Package as Soon as Possible in Order to Protect the Economic Security of Millions of Americans

In accordance with our first and second principles, we as UUs believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, as well the importance of justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Additionally, our faith calls us to promote action and accountability of legislators. As such, it is our collective responsibility to fight for the rights of individuals and families disproportionately impacted economically by the global COVID pandemic.

In just three weeks, unless Congress acts, many of the pandemic relief policies that have been lifelines for our families (like expanded unemployment benefits, emergency paid family leave and earned sick days, and eviction protections) will all expire on December 31st.¹ This is happening as COVID cases are soaring and as we learn that nearly twenty six million adults reported they didn't have enough food to eat in the past week, including more than one in six adults with children.²

→ NOW is the time for Congress to take action and we need YOU to help turn up the volume on what our families are going through and the type of COVID relief we need!

Congress has no time to waste!! Many families across the country are hurting badly, with their basic needs of housing, food security, health care being compromised.

*****Make a high-impact Phone Call & Send an Email to your U.S. Senators NOW!*****

Reaching out to your U.S. Senator now is critical and time-sensitive, because negotiations have started on an end-of-the year COVID-relief package.³ Families struggling financially have been waiting months for more funding for programs that will support our families, health care entities, and communities at greatest risk during this pandemic. Supports like expanded unemployment benefits, extensions on emergency paid leave and earned sick days, protections against evictions, funding for healthcare programs and childcare and K-12 education, expansions of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and another round of stimulus checks are needed to provide much needed cash to struggling families and local businesses.

While we have needed this package for months, the crisis point we are facing right now is extreme. Unless Congress takes action within the next few weeks, 12 million people will be immediately kicked off of unemployment insurance⁴ and 19 million renters could lose their

¹ ["Here Are All The Coronavirus Relief Programs Expiring At the End of the Year." Forbes, November 17, 2020.](#)

² ["A growing number of Americans are going hungry." Washington Post, November 25, 2020.](#)

³ ["Stimulus package update: Despite 3 new proposals, negotiations are off to a rocky start." CNET, December 1, 2020.](#)

⁴ ["12 Million Workers Facing Jobless Benefit Cliff on December 26." The Century Foundation, November 18, 2020.](#)

homes.⁵ This is all at the same time that 1 in 4 children are living in hunger because of the impacts of COVID and cases of the virus are soaring in every single state—and only expected to go up as we head into the holidays and colder months.^{6 7} And in previous stimulus packages, immigrant populations were completely left out of previous stimulus packages, despite the critical contributions they make to our communities and economy.

Inaction is not an option! Our families and economy are hurting and we need our leaders in Congress to know that we expect them to take action NOW!

Even if you think your U.S. Senator supports COVID relief, we need all of Congress talking about how much they are hearing from their constituents about how urgent this is. Making calls to your Senator's office is a high-impact way to make your voice heard.

For even more information/background on these issues, we encourage you to review materials from Indivisible and their [“We Need Relief Now”](#) initiative.

Talking Points for Calls and Emails

- As the Senate considers a new financial package to provide economic relief to individuals negatively impacted by COVID, please work expeditiously and in good faith.
- This package must provide adequate resources to state and local governments to ensure they can properly run school districts, COVID testing sites, community health programs and public services through the winter.
- I urge you to advocate for the extension of key programs set to expire – including unemployment insurance and emergency paid leave, as well as protections against eviction. These programs are critical to assuring that millions of people who have lost their jobs or are facing challenges affording rent, utilities or feeding and caring for their families get the support they need during economically trying times.
- The package should include necessary public health measures like expanded testing and tracing capacity, workplace safety measures, and free & equitable distribution of vaccines and treatments.
- If you or your colleagues are concerned about the budgetary implications of a large relief package, consider what will happen if these urgent needs are not met. It would behoove the Congress to put in better measures for ensuring money is going to those who are most impacted, as opposed to corporations and large businesses.
- Prioritizing our society's most vulnerable populations at greatest risk of economic insecurity – communities of color, low-income working families, immigrant populations, the aging, people with disabilities, and front-line essential workers – must be a driving and fundamental goal of any COVID relief package. Immigrant populations make critical contributions to our communities and economy. Please make sure that immigrants are included in the relief package and have access to the assistance they need to survive.

⁵ [“Nearly 19 million Americans could lose their homes when eviction limits expire Dec. 31.” CBS News, November 27, 2020.](#)

⁶ [“One in Six Americans Could Go Hungry In 2020 as pandemic persists.” National Geographic, November 24, 2020.](#)

⁷ [U.S. reported more COVID-19 cases in November than most countries had all year - CBS News](#)

Sample Email to Your Senators

[Use your own words. Speak from your heart -- this is only a template for your consideration.]

- **INTRO:**

I am a Unitarian Universalist from [optional: name of congregation and location], and supporter of Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice. In accordance with two of the key principles of our faith, we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and are called to advocate for justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

I urge you to pass a comprehensive and compassionate COVID relief package. I have a deep concern for the people who are being disproportionately impacted economically from the COVID pandemic. specifically people of color, immigrant populations, people with disabilities, the aging and low-income working families and communities.

- **PERSONAL EXPERIENCE/REFLECTION**

Insert personal experience or pick 1-2 **talking points from above** to support the main message. Try to adapt the talking points to your own “voice”/communication style if you can.

- **CLOSING (Adapt as needed):**

Thank you for your consideration of my [concerns/story]. These challenging times require and deserve bold, compassionate, and courageous leadership. I hope you will rise to the occasion and promote these priorities in the next COVID relief package, which should be enacted before December 31, to help the many in need. I look forward to your response.