

March 18, 2020

Dear CSIO friends and allies,

We are writing you regarding the Covid 19 crisis – which is impacting immigrant communities more than any others right now.

We wanted to share with you - our immigrant grassroots partners and all our allies - some current resources that are available to support communities in handling the health, economic and social crises before us.

We also wanted to ask you – our partners and allies – whether you need CSIO's or other types of support now in your work with immigrant communities. We want to cast as big a net as possible to ensure that all of us, particularly those most impacted by loss of wages, lack of health care resources, immigration issues, etc. get the support they need in the coming months.

With that in mind, we have compiled an initial list of resources we want to share out today. They include:

- 1) [Comprehensive information on COVID 19 in 57 languages](#) (these include most of the languages spoken in Boston).
- 2) [Information from the One Fair Wage campaign](#) on how to support tipped and other service workers who have the most to lose with the shutdown of the economy:
- 3) [Information from our friends at Lawyers for Civil Rights](#) on issues related to rights and resources regarding health care, employment, immigration, food security, driver licenses, and other issues.
- 4) [Boston COVID-19 Community Care](#) that include how to get food, financial support, housing, etc. as well as how to volunteer or contribute to critical efforts now (this crowdsourcing list is being updated daily)
- 5) Information from USCIS about [Public Charge](#) for immigration purposes
- 6) [Emergency Evictions hotline](#): English (617) 934-5006 and Spanish (617) 397-3773
- 7) [Pick up places](#) for free breakfasts and lunches for any BPS student.

Finally, the big picture.

At CSIO, we believe that immigrant communities facing these attacks and threats are best equipped to take leadership to create solutions – and in building the social change movement. Now is not the time to be isolated – even though physically we cannot be in touch. We need to be working together, supporting each other, building the world we want to see. It is a time now to get to know your neighbors, learn how to support each other better, come to rely on each other for solutions.

In the words of Naomi Klein, within the peril we face comes promise. Strategies unheard of weeks ago are now on the table because of this health crisis: minimum incomes for working people, health care access, eviction and mortgage freezes, job protections, etc. We need to take this opportunity to build these agendas outward, to demand that our economic and social systems be people-centered, not profit-centered. We wanted to share with you an [8-minute video narrated by Naomi Klein](#) on the choices before us now and the opportunities in front of us:

This crisis reveals the underlying disease of a neo-liberal system that at all other times lets immigrants and other targeted communities in the U.S. suffer and fall through the cracks. As the government debates proposals to address this crisis, we need to demand that resources directed to the crisis go to the people who are suffering the impact of the crisis – not to corporations that got us into this mess in the first place. And after the immediate crisis is over, we need to press to make health care, housing, jobs, food security, etc. rights that extend well past the virus.

In solidarity and community,