COVID-19 Response Statement from Urban League of San Diego County: We Are Open For Business!

Amidst the unprecedented realities that we are all actively addressing during the COVID-19 global pandemic, we wanted to convey our heartfelt concern for everyone in our community. Now, more than ever, our deep interconnectedness is evident. We are faced with a challenge that is rooted in this connection and we understand that the path forward is dependent upon our ability to rise to the challenge together. At the Urban League of San Diego County, our priority is the health, safety, and well-being of our community at large and our generous volunteers, staff, and supporters. The Urban League of San Diego County is steadfast in doing all we can to keep our program participants, community, employees, volunteers, and partners protected through this COVID-19 crisis. As a result, we adhere to advisement from health professionals and government leaders and help limit potential exposure to the virus by allowing our TEAM to work and our CLIENTS to continue to access our programs and services from home. We are open for business and MOST programs and services will continue uninterrupted as follows:

- **Transition to Telework Protocol:** Over the next few days, we will transition fully to a remote web-based protocol for classes, seminars, meetings, counseling/coaching and general services for most of our programs: Workforce, Elder Health Access, Grandparents Connections, Education and Youth Development, Housing and Wealth Building, and Advocacy.
• **Cancellations:** People who have registered for upcoming large workshops, seminars and special events that cannot be accommodated online, will be individually notified of postponements and alerted as soon as we are clear to reschedule. We will also post notices of these postponements on this site. So far we have canceled and/or will reschedule the following events and programs:

  ✓ Educational & Psychosocial Services at Las Colinas Detention and Reentry Facility are canceled until further notice.
  
  ✓ CARE Services have been suspended until further notice
  
  ✓ Golden Pyramid Scholars Program is canceled and at some point we will hopefully recognize the scholarship winners for this year
  
  ✓ As we remain hopeful that better days are ahead of a final decision on whether or not to cancel our Annual Whitney M. Young: Diversity and Inclusion Dinner normally held in early December.

• **Connecting to Programs and Services:** We are posting guidelines here to help clients easily navigate the system for engaging online whether you are a

  o currently enrolled client or
  
  o new to the League seeking assistance in one of our service areas. In this manner, we expect to avoid any disruption to learning, earning certifications, access to counselors/coaches, supportive services and other guidance that normally is delivered in person to our clients.
  
  o Each program has a website page with contact information
• **Contacting Us:** We will be available by phone and email throughout this period to answer any questions and to facilitate a smooth transition to this protocol that allows staff and clients to use technological platforms to engage remotely. Call 619.266.6237 to leave a message and for help. You may also connect directly to our Team members by accessing our Staff Directory.

We are examining ways to provide outreach to families needing financial and logistical assistance for food and supplies. We will continue to communicate with our community online. Please refer to our website.----Today more than ever as our spirits are challenged and our health is made vulnerable, community support is a great source of comfort, power, human creativity, and connections. So, as you care for yourselves, family, friends and neighbors, we encourage you to reach out to others less fortunate. Remember that we are in this together and the light of hope lives in each of us for better days.

This is an unprecedented health crisis, and we are confident that together, we can operate under a strategy that will keep supporting our community to continue to work toward achieving your goals. It is why we exist and why we are committed to working together with our funders, clients, volunteers, and supporters to stay on target to continue to offer our life-changing services. We thank all of our funders and partners for your continued and ongoing support. Our communities need us now more than ever and we hope we can continue to count on your support. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us directly at ray.king@sdul.org. Thank you for your commitment and your continued support and engagement with the Urban League of San Diego County.

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