2020.07.27 - TF. Unemployment Insurance Mtg. Notes

<u>Present</u>: Meena Agarwal, Reena Shah, Ashley Black, Carnot Evans, Paul Cucuzzella

<u>Next Meeting</u>: Monday, August 3, 2020

Issues with undocumented immigrants:
- Undocumented immigrants are not qualified to receive any funding from the CARES Act, despite the fact that their employer contributes taxes to these programs on their behalf.
  - Both federal and state law dictate this restriction, however, some states have been able to find loopholes to help this vulnerable population. (Ex: California)
- What can we look at to help?
  - Employers making payments on behalf of their employees into these programs they do not qualify for.
    - Some even pay their own taxes using their TIN#.
  - We can begin to look at what research has already been done, specifically, how many people are actually benign effected.
    - Caterina will do research on national immigration organizations to see what research has already been completed.
    - Reena will reach out to some of her contacts (experts in immigration) to identify any potential leads.
    - SNAP&TANF: Ashley will reach out to her committee members to get input/ideas.
- Accessibility issues:
  - Limitations people face when applying for benefits:
    - Lack of knowledge. The websites can be intimidating and difficult to navigate. If someone fills one thing on the application out incorrectly, their claim can be held up for several weeks.
    - Goals: Education (diagrams/visuals) and recommendations to the agencies that assist with accessibility.
    - Potentially form a partnership with other organizations.
      - The application process does not require attorneys, but having someone who knows the application and process well may be helpful.
        - Someone to help navigate the process
        - Webinars and SNAP outreach programs can be useful tools to look into.
      - Legal assistance is helpful when issues actually come up
    - Education:
      - There can be some collaboration between the two subcommittees to present uniform information.
      - Each committee will do their own research and collaborate on how to effectively present the information to the public.
    - The Unemployment Insurance website is incredibly difficult to navigate through.
      - We can present how to apply and give people information on the potential legal aspects of their applications.
        - Listing resources available once the legal aspect gets involved.
      - Public/Private organizations could collaborate to present this information to claimants

- ● Caterina will write up a summary of the key differences between the Maryland website and the Pennsylvania website. Meena believes that the PA website is much clearer and easier to navigate. These key differences can be brought to the applicable organizations to implement change.
- ● Additional discussion:
  - ○ Meena will send out a doodle poll to schedule the next subcommittee meeting.
  - ○ Both subcommittees will collaborate with the first initiative due to capacity issues.
  - ○ Carnot and Paul will mee to discuss the possibility of re-initiating the Medicaid subcommittee
  - ○ Funding goals:
    - ■ Short term/Long term asks: the short term ask should be a ballpark of the things we want to implement and what the funding would actually be spent on. (Ex: staffing clinics will cost approximately x amount).
    - ■ By August 10th we should have some ballpark numbers and by the end of August, we should have some idea for the costs of the bigger asks.
  - ○ We should start thinking about having a liaison between this committee and the Public Awareness&Community Engagement Committee.
    - ■ Paul or Carnot could potentially take on this role.
- ● Caterina will work on:
  - ○ Going through the PA/MD websites and coming up with key differences to use as proposals for MD.
    - ■ Top 3-4 differences that set the websites apart.
    - ■ Including screenshots of any recommendations from the PA website
  - ○ Looking into the immigration organizations to collect any data that has already been researched.
    - ■ And look through any other information that could be helpful.