



March 10th, 2022

Governor Jim Justice  
Ms. Ann Urling, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Sherri Foreman, Executive Assistant to Chief of Staff  
Office of the Governor  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Charleston, WV 25305

Ms. Jill Upson, Director, Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Building 1, Room 9R  
Charleston, WV 25305

**Re: TMG Budget Request for Allocation of American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

Dear Governor Justice, Ms. Urling, and Ms. Upson,

The Tuesday Morning Group submitted the proposal outlined below to the Governor's Office under the banner of the Tuesday Morning Group's Economic Justice, Fairness and Equity Movement Proposal.

West Virginia Citizen Action Group fully supports this proposal to mitigate the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and address economic and health disparities in our communities.

The TMG recommends that Governor Justice request that the Legislature allocate funds to support initiatives in West Virginia's census tracts with poverty rates 20% or higher as follows:

1. State-Wide Youth Summer Work and Academic Enrichment Program

**\$10 million dollars to Workforce West Virginia to administer the program**

2. Special Pilot Project to reconnect the 50,000 plus 16 – 24 years old youth and young adults who are not working and not in school to education, job training and employment.

**\$10 million dollars to Workforce West Virginia to administer the program**

3. Neighborhood Housing and Economic Stabilization Program to use housing rehab, upgrades, construction, and weatherization as a job training employment and economic development driver in low- income neighbors across the state per the 2004-HB-2950.

**\$25 million dollars to the WV Housing Development Fund to administer the program**

4. Special Community-Based Pilot Project to Improve Outcomes for at-Risk Youth per 2012-SB-611 and 2017-HB-2188. The project will be a partnership between WV DHHR, Workforce WV, Voc-Rehab, WV State School Superintendent's office, WV Adult Basic Education and other State governmental, business, and community partners. The partners will create ten (10) satellite clearinghouses to coordinate social and workforce development services to the hard-to-reach populations and to those who experience barriers to education, job training and employment.

**\$10 million dollars to the WVDHHR and Workforce West Virginia to administer the program**

5. WV Office of Minority Health - Funding to support the office's efforts to develop, implement and execute a state-wide plan to address and reduce long-standing, well-documented racial health disparities and to create satellite Community and Population's Health Centers in strategic locations.

**\$10 million dollars to the WV Office of Minority Health to administer the program**

6. Minority Economic Development Fund – Provide funding so that WV Economic Development Authority can fulfill the intent of the 2004 SB-573 Minority Economic Development law to develop and implement a procedure to promote economic development in heavily-populated low-income and minority communities.

**\$10 million dollars to West Virginia Development Office to administer the program**

7. Center for Rural Health Development and the WV Rural Health Association

**\$2 million divided equally to support the expansion of the work of these two organizations**

The requests outlined above are consistent with the May 31, 2020, letter that was submitted to the Governor's Office by the WV State NAACP Conference of Branches and the Charleston Branch NAACP proposing the 20/20/20 Economic Justice and Equity Fund. They are also consistent with the February 1, 2022, letter submitted to the Governor's Office by the Tuesday Morning Group (TMG) outlining a legislative framework to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19. But, most importantly, they are consistent with the intent of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act which calls for funds to be invested to address challenges exacerbated by COVID-19, to mitigate the negative outcome of COVID-19 and to address challenges faced by those populations that are most vulnerable to COVID-19 due to underlying health and socioeconomic conditions. We believe these proposed projects are consistent with a just, fair and equitable distribution of COVID-19 funds to the most distressed communities with the most

vulnerable populations. We believe that this is a clear intent of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act law.

Again, West Virginia Citizen Action Group fully supports this proposal, and we urge you to approve the funding of these programs as requested. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary Zuckett, Executive Director, West Virginia Citizen Action Group  
1500 Dixie St., Charleston, WV 25311  
304-437-3701

CC:

Senate President, Craig Blair  
Office of the Senate President, Lt. Governor  
Room 229M, Building 1, State Capitol Complex 1900 Kanawha Blvd. West,  
Charleston, WV 25305

House Speaker, Roger Hanshaw  
Room 228M, Building 1 State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV 25305

Senate Minority Leader, Stephen Baldwin  
Room 224M, Building 1900 Kanawha Blvd. West,  
Charleston WV 25305

House Minority Leader, Doug Skaff  
Room 260M, Building 11900 Kanawha Blvd. East  
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