

2020 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES:

ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE

ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
AND BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATIONAL
OPPORTUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE AND
INCLUSION

PATIENT
ENGAGEMENT

GOVERNOR COOPER'S BUDGET PRIORITIES:

- Positioning North Carolina to create new jobs and recover from pandemic economic losses;
- Making North Carolina a Top Ten educated state;
- Promoting healthier and safer communities;
- Ensuring an effective, accountable, well-run state government.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Expand Medicaid.
- Increase opportunities for patients to utilize telehealth services.
- Increase investments in rural hospitals, community health centers, and federally qualified health care centers to provide quality health care, digital literacy training, vaccinations, and vaccination awareness campaigns to increase the number of undocumented, low-income, and other vulnerable patients served and vaccinated.
- Establish mandatory, uniformed cultural methods of collecting demographic patient information, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc., across all health care systems.
- Support workforce development programs and leverage partnerships with NC HBCUs and community colleges to develop executive educational programs, and create a medical school pipeline for students of color.

COMMON THEMES:

Recommendations include themes such as telemedicine, Medicaid expansion, medical school pipelines, improving digital literacy, job initiatives, and more. A summary of subcommittee policy recommendations are provided on the next page.

Access to Healthcare

- Increase opportunities for patients to utilize telehealth services.
- Appropriate \$1,257,642.15 in state funds for the Office of Rural Health's Health Information Technology Assistance Program.
- Increase investments in rural hospitals, community health centers, and federally qualified health care centers to provide quality health care, digital literacy training, vaccinations, and vaccination awareness campaigns to increase the number of undocumented, low-income, and other vulnerable patients served and vaccinated.
- Increase opportunities for historically marginalized populations to participate in state government affairs to ensure community input in policies to demonstrate transparency and trustworthiness. The composition of state advisory boards should represent 60% of persons with lived experience.
- Expand Medicaid.

Patient Engagement

- Establish mandatory, uniformed cultural methods of collecting demographic patient information, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc., across all health care systems.
- Increase funding to strengthen the capacity of federally qualified health care centers to increase number of undocumented, low-income, and other vulnerable patients served.
- Expand Medicaid.
- Ensure and strengthen medical sick leave policies for essential workers, particularly that of historically marginalized backgrounds.

Economic Opportunity & Business Development

- Support workforce development programs and leverage partnerships with NC HBCUs to develop executive educational programs.
- Support apprenticeships and workforce pipelines that create job growth.
- Implement a Tier 1 (prime) and Tier 2 (subcontractor) Subcontracting Plan.

Educational Opportunity

- Assist, advocate, and encourage the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and other required administrative or academic bodies, to adopt a digital literacy curriculum and toolkit that is accessible to all students and parents in their native language.
- Advocate for the North Carolina General Assembly to pass a comprehensive budget that includes funding for HB 92430, which provides for personal financial literacy for high school students, as well as a similar mandatory requirement for post-secondary institutions.
- Support community health centers by implementing telehealth and telemedicine initiatives, including, but not limited to, ensuring adequate funding for health education and partnering with state agencies and other groups that share similar goals of increasing broadband access and addressing health literacy.
- Establish a statewide health literacy coordinating council and corresponding regional health literacy councils as consistent with the Area Health Education model.

Environmental Justice & Inclusion

- Support the creation of environmental justice, equity and inclusion positions at the Departments of Commerce, Transportation, Natural and Cultural Resources and the Office of Emergency Management and consider other agencies where such positions might benefit community access to state decision-making.
- Utilize existing training and incentive programs to create jobs initiatives in disadvantaged communities geared toward remediation and resiliency work on public and low-income buildings in those communities, with a specific focus on public schools within the demonstration sites of Robeson and Edgecombe counties.
- Support funding the effort to remediate the environmental issues in public schools.
- Support expansion of the inventory and remediation process demonstrated by Short-Term Goal 2, to include other types of infrastructure, such as housing, courthouses, and other public buildings in environmental justice communities.
- Support a legislative strategy for changes to create a standard environmental justice review process for state projects.