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# The Network of Texas IAF Organizations

Southwest Fwy. Ste 650, Houston, Texas 77207 Phone: 713-807-1429 Email: tmo@tmo.org



Dear Sirs:

As the largest network of faith and community-based organizations in Texas, with 10 broad-based coalitions representing hundreds of thousands of families statewide, The Texas IAF is extremely concerned about the physical and financial impact of COVID-19 on working families. With aggressive containment efforts of COVID-19 underway, including "Shelter in Place" requirements across the State, Dallas Area Interfaith and the 10 Texas IAF Organizations are calling the Texas Public Utility Commission to take the following steps to keep Texas citizens safe during this pandemic:

- Cease all utility cutoffs/shutdowns (water, phone, electricity) until 30 days after the State ends its Emergency Declaration
- Waive any late fees that have or will accrue from the start of the Emergency Declaration until 30 days after it ends
- Extend payment due dates with no down payment required during this same period.
- Reduce down payments and defer balances over five equal installments
- Enact additional bill-payment assistance by PUC to citizens in need through utility aid program.
- Require local utility companies to have assistance plans in place if a customer is unable to pay their bill

COVID-19 is causing uncertainty and many hardships, and during this time, DAI/IAF of Texas doesn't want Texas citizens to have their physical or financial health put in danger unnecessarily. To fight the spread of COVID-19 access to water, communications, and electricity are basic necessities.

Sincerely,

*Rev. John Ogletree Jr*

Rev. John Ogletree  
The Metropolitan Organization

*Dolores De Avila*

Dolores De Avila  
EPISO/ Border Interfaith

*Walter D'heedene*

Rev. Walter D'heedene  
COPS/Metro Alliance

*Rev. Davis Price*

Rev. Davis Price  
West Texas Organizing Strategy

*Kevin A. Collins, OMI*

Rev. Kevin Collins, OMI  
Valley Interfaith

*Miles Brandon*

Fr. Miles Brandon  
Central Texas Interfaith

*Bishop Greg Kelly*

Bishop Greg Kelly  
Dallas Area Interfaith

*Sandra Fuentes*

Sandra Fuentes  
The Border Organization

*Rev. Daniel Kelly*

Rev. Daniel Kelly  
Arlington-Mansfield Organizing Strategy

\*The Network of Texas IAF Organizations are non partisan, institutionally based community organizations whose purpose is to train leaders to organize families around issues which affect their quality of life. The network includes Communities Organized for Public Service and The Metro Alliance and ICAN in San Antonio, The Border Organization, Valley Interfaith in the Rio Grande Valley; TMO in Houston; EPISO and Border Interfaith In El Paso; Austin Interfaith; ACT in Fort Worth; Dallas Area Interfaith; AMOS- Arlington , The West Texas Organizing Strategy; and Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange.

COPS/  
Metro  
Alliance San  
Antonio

Dallas Area  
Interfaith

AMOS,  
Arlington

TMO,  
Houston

Valley  
Interfaith,  
Rio Grande  
Valley

EPISO and  
Border  
Interfaith,  
El Paso

Austin  
Interfaith

The West  
Texas  
Organizing  
Strategy

The Border  
Organization,  
Del Rio /  
Eagle Pass

San Antonio  
Sponsoring  
Committee