

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Small Business Owners, Faith Leaders, Community Organizers Call on Congress to Pass Stimulus Checks

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, [5,600 small business owners](#), [25 church leaders](#) representing more than 30 million African American congregants, and [54 labor and community organizations](#) sent letters urging Congress to pass recurring stimulus checks to help struggling families and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Congress debates the next round of stimulus relief, a growing number of bipartisan lawmakers including House Speaker Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, and Republican Senator Josh Hawley, [economists](#), and others have advocated for stimulus checks as the most direct way to help people during the pandemic. President-Elect Biden [said](#) that he thinks the legislation being debated in Congress “would be better if they had the \$1200.” Stimulus checks are also popular among the public, with [77% of voters](#) supporting another check. And new polling just released in Georgia found that [87% of runoff voters](#) demand another check.

“Small businesses like mine are struggling,” said **Stephanie Bonin**, owner of Duo restaurant in Denver, Colorado. “We’re being forced to make impossible decisions about whether to keep our doors open so we and our employees can provide for our families, or to close them to protect the health of our workers and communities. Direct cash payments give us and our employees the flexibility to make the decisions that are best for us, and put money directly into our customers’ pockets so they can make ends meet.”

[Letter from 5,600 small business owners:](#)

While efforts to support small businesses through loans and grants have provided some relief to some business owners, it wasn’t enough, and many of us are unable to get the help we need. We as business owners need flexibility. Our employees need support.

That’s why we’re calling for direct cash payments until the economy recovers. Cash is the most practical support for small business owners facing unforeseen challenges and an unknown future. It’s no wonder that 80% of small business owners approve of cash.

[Letter from 25 faith leaders](#) representing more than 30 million African American congregants:

The African American community has been decimated by the political loggerheads in Congress and the lack of financial support for those who have lost employment or

revenue through no fault of their own. Black businesses and churches have been especially impacted by the decrease in economic buying power of the Black community.

Our people need support that is predictable, stabilizing, sustaining and significant enough to allow them to spend in the economy without fear of want. To that end, we are making the following ask: Direct stimulus payments of not less than \$1,200/month for a period of 6 months for every adult making up to \$100,000/year, to be paid by electronic bank transfer, paper check or prepaid debit card.

[Letter from 54 labor and community organizations](#), including Children's Defense Fund, People's Action, United Food & Commercial Workers, Humanity Forward, Small Business Majority, Faith in Action Fund, Community Change Action, Center for Popular Democracy, MoveOn, Progressive Change Campaign Committee, Working Families Party, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice:

The need is urgent. The response must be bold. We urge you to provide recurring direct stimulus checks, lasting until the economy recovers, to combat the virus and rebuild an economy that works for everyone.

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Economic Security Project is leading the [Emergency Money for the People](#) campaign to pass recurring direct payments until the economy recovers.