



# Press Release...

FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

**For Immediate Release:**

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**For More Information:**

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## Ford Promotes African American Rapid Relief Task Force

*Proposal for a Governor's Executive Order*

**CHICAGO** – State Representative La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, has proposed an Executive Order from Governor Pritzker which will require the governor to establish an Illinois Office of Diversity and Inclusion. “The Rapid Task Force must have a report to Governor Pritzker in 7 days with direction to sign an Executive Order to have all agencies and his office spend the money to deal with the problems facing black people,” said Ford.

More details on the proposed African American Rapid Relief Task Force:

**Whereas**, African American residents across Illinois have been ravaged by suffering from the COVID-19 virus and from recent police misconduct issues across the country; and

**Whereas**, African American residents in Illinois need tens of millions of dollars in immediate assistance with food, pharmaceuticals, rebuild and establish businesses in black communities, police reform, homeless prevention, mental health, substance use disorder, COVID-19 Relief and health disparities; then

**THEREFORE**, by the powers vested in me as the Governor of the State of Illinois, pursuant to the Illinois Constitution and Sections 7(1), 7(2), 7(3), 7(8), 7(9), and 7(12) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305, and consistent with the powers in public health laws, I hereby order the following, effective immediately:

1. Create an Illinois Office of Diversity and Inclusion that will manage the findings of the task force
2. Set up a 50-member African American Rapid Relief Task Force for Illinois

Task force members will include representatives of:

- Members of the House and Senate – 10
- Governor and Lt Governor – 2

- State treasurer – 1
- Business community including black business representative – 3
- Retailer with fresh food – 1
- Pharmacy representatives - 1
- City mayors – one from downstate -- 5
- Mayor of Chicago -- 1
- Faith leaders – 3
- Community organizations -- 3
- Youth -- 3
- DCEO -- 1
- IDPH - 1
- IDHS - 1
- ISBE – 1
- Illinois State Police – 1
- Courts representative – 1
- Cook County State’s Attorney/State’s Attorney Association – 1
- Public defender – 1
- Substance abuse provider – 1
- Homeless organization – 1
- Police reform organization – 1
- Black police officers organization – National Organization of Black Law Enforcement (NOBLE) – 1
- Safety net hospitals -- 1
- Additional appointees – 4

Within one week, the task force shall submit to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion a plan to provide relief to the African American communities through executive orders and funding with a focus on all the challenges facing the Black communities in Illinois including Coronavirus Relief Funding from the Illinois CARES Act and existing sources of state General Revenue Funding, other special funds.

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