

Checklist for Racially Equitable PPE Ordering + Distribution

We already know that COVID-19 is [impacting Black Americans at disproportionately high rates](#). The homeless response system is one place that disparity can be either deepened or mitigated. Since frontline homeless response workers are more likely to be people of color, ensuring they have access to PPE is one opportunity to advance racial equity in your system during this crisis.

As you work to procure and distribute PPE, you can use this quick checklist to kickstart your thinking and ensure the most racially equitable procurement and distribution possible.

Frontline response workers are disproportionately people of color, while volunteers and people in leadership are more likely to be white. This puts people of color at unique risk. Regardless of whether this feels true in your community, how can you ensure that...

- You are prioritizing adequate access for frontline workers in your PPE distribution?
- You are providing clear training and guidance on the use of PPE to all frontline workers? [This resource from the Built for Zero team may help!](#)
- You are soliciting routine and adequate input from frontline workers to ensure they feel prepared, knowledgeable, and trained in the safe use of PPE and that they aren't experiencing shortages of which you are unaware?

Organizations led or staffed predominantly by people of color are often less included in local leadership structures and resourcing decisions. Regardless of whether this is true in your community, how can you ensure local organizations led or staffed primarily by people of color...

- Are aware of and have access to this ordering opportunity?
- Have reviewed distribution lists and ensured their networks are reflected?

Organizations led or staffed predominantly by people of color may be smaller and less resourced than whiter organizations as a result of gated networks and unequal access to funding. Regardless of whether this feels true in your community, how can you ensure they have...

- Effective payment methods available in the stipulated time frame?
- The ability to team up with the CoC or other providers in your community if their ordering needs do not meet the minimum unit threshold?