

# Prince George's FORWARD

REIMAGINING OUR FUTURE



## COVID-19 Actions Today Summary Report



“When I took office nearly two years ago, I said that we would invest in our most precious resource, which is our residents.”

## Dear Prince Georgians,

This pandemic is changing our lives in ways we never imagined, pushing us into uncharted waters and changing the way we interact with each other, our communities and our government. When I look ahead to a time when this pandemic is behind us, I want more for us. I do not want Prince George's County to just get back to where we were; I want us to come back stronger and better than ever.

To help us get there, I created Prince George's Forward to guide our recovery efforts now and in the months and years to come. This task force consists of influential leaders, subject-matter experts, former government officials and County employees whose experience and innovation will help us reimagine our County's future. While the County government is working every day to meet the health, safety, educational and economic needs of our residents during this public health emergency, the Forward Task Force is collaborating with our government agencies and listening to residents to create a set of recommendations for our growth based on a foundation of data and innovation.

This dynamic task force is prioritizing its work so we can improve how we meet current challenges and rethink our long-term approach to the way we deliver services to our residents. Prince George's Forward Co-chairs Dr. Charlene Dukes and David Velazquez, along with their subcommittees — Economic, Health, Education, Government Operations, and Human and Social Services — are developing recommendations that will be rolled out in three phases.

Each phase of recommendations — immediate, short-term and long-term — will be presented to County residents in a report; this is the first one. These will be shared with you and on our website, [www.princegeorgesforward.com](http://www.princegeorgesforward.com).

Prince Georgians, thank you for your sacrifices and doing your part to slow the spread of this virus. Together, we will emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

Sincerely,

**Angela Alsobrooks**  
County Executive



**Angela D. Alsobrooks**  
County Executive

# Note from the Co-Chairs

It is an honor to serve as co-chairs for the Prince George's Forward Task Force at the request of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. As Prince Georgians know well, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to how we live and work. Being a part of the County Executive's ambitious plan to reimagine the County's future is one of the most humbling and inspiring experiences we have had.

From the outset, the Forward Task Force was charged with providing concrete, actionable recommendations across a broad spectrum of policy areas to aid Prince George's recovery and equip the County to better respond to future crises. The work demanded that we bring together the brightest leaders and problem-solvers in our area. Our Task Force subcommittees are led by experienced, committed and thoughtful leaders who are experts in their fields and share a deep understanding of our County. They have the knowledge and practical know-how to help our County emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever.

The Task Force's work is organized in five key areas:

- The Health Recovery Subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Joe Wright, Interim President/CEO, University of Maryland, Capital Region Health.
- The Education Recovery Subcommittee is chaired by Dr. Darryll Pines, incoming President of the University of Maryland, College Park.
- The Economic Recovery Subcommittee is chaired by Tom Graham of TH Graham and Associates.
- The Government Operations Subcommittee is chaired by the Honorable Martin O'Malley, former governor of Maryland.
- The Human and Social Services Recovery Subcommittee is chaired by Rosie Allen-Herring, President and CEO of the United Way of the National Capital Area.

The subcommittees are comprised of Prince Georgians and Marylanders who are diverse in background and professional experience, united by their commitment to ensure a thriving future for Prince George's County.

Given the urgency of need that the COVID-19 pandemic has created, the County Executive asked the Task Force to release its recommendations in three phases. The first phase — Actions Today — can be implemented right away. Two additional reports, on our short- and long-term recommendations, will be released in the coming months.

Utilizing our values of collaboration, innovation and data-driven solutions, Actions Today is a concrete first step toward positioning Prince George's County to emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever. We are excited to present it to you here and are humbled by the opportunity to be part of such an important effort.



**Dr. Charlene Dukes**  
Co-Chair



**David Velazquez**  
Co-Chair



**William Von Hoene, Jr.**  
Co-Chair



**Dr. Charlene Dukes**

Prince George's Forward Co-Chair  
Former President, Prince George's  
Community College



**David Velazquez**

Prince George's Forward Acting Co-Chair  
President and CEO, Pepco Holdings



**William Von Hoene, Jr.**

Prince George's Forward Co-Chair  
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief  
Strategy Officer, Exelon Corporation





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# About Prince George's Forward

The Prince George's Forward Task Force is an engaged group of subject-matter experts and County employees working together to address the impacts of COVID-19 on all Prince Georgians as we guide our path forward.

The Forward Task Force represents the best of Prince George's County — they are innovators, doers, leaders, humanitarians and experts in their fields. Professionally, our Task Force members are doctors, educators, executives, small business owners, and current and former government officials. Personally, they are mothers, fathers, caregivers, grandparents, mentors, volunteers and community members. They care deeply about our communities and the impact COVID-19 has had on them, and they understand firsthand the challenges Prince George's County faces. They are invested in our progress and committed to our success. Our Task Force is, indeed, ours. Because of their deep community connections and commitment to our success, they are uniquely positioned to help solve the challenges COVID-19 has posed for our County.

Each of our Task Force members was handpicked for their unique perspectives and knowledge. We built a world-class group of advisors to confront an unprecedented global health challenge that required an innovative and local approach. The vast combined experience of our Task Force is providing unparalleled insight and concrete, commonsense solutions to move our County forward.

## The Task Force is comprised of five subcommittees:



### Economic Recovery

Finding opportunities to create robust job opportunities and a well-trained workforce



### Education Recovery

Strengthening education to give our children more tools to succeed and spur innovation in our education system



### Government Operations

Seeking innovative solutions and challenging the status quo to meet the ever-changing needs of our County and Prince Georgians



### Health Recovery

Preparing for the future by using a data-driven approach so all Prince Georgians can live a healthy, productive life

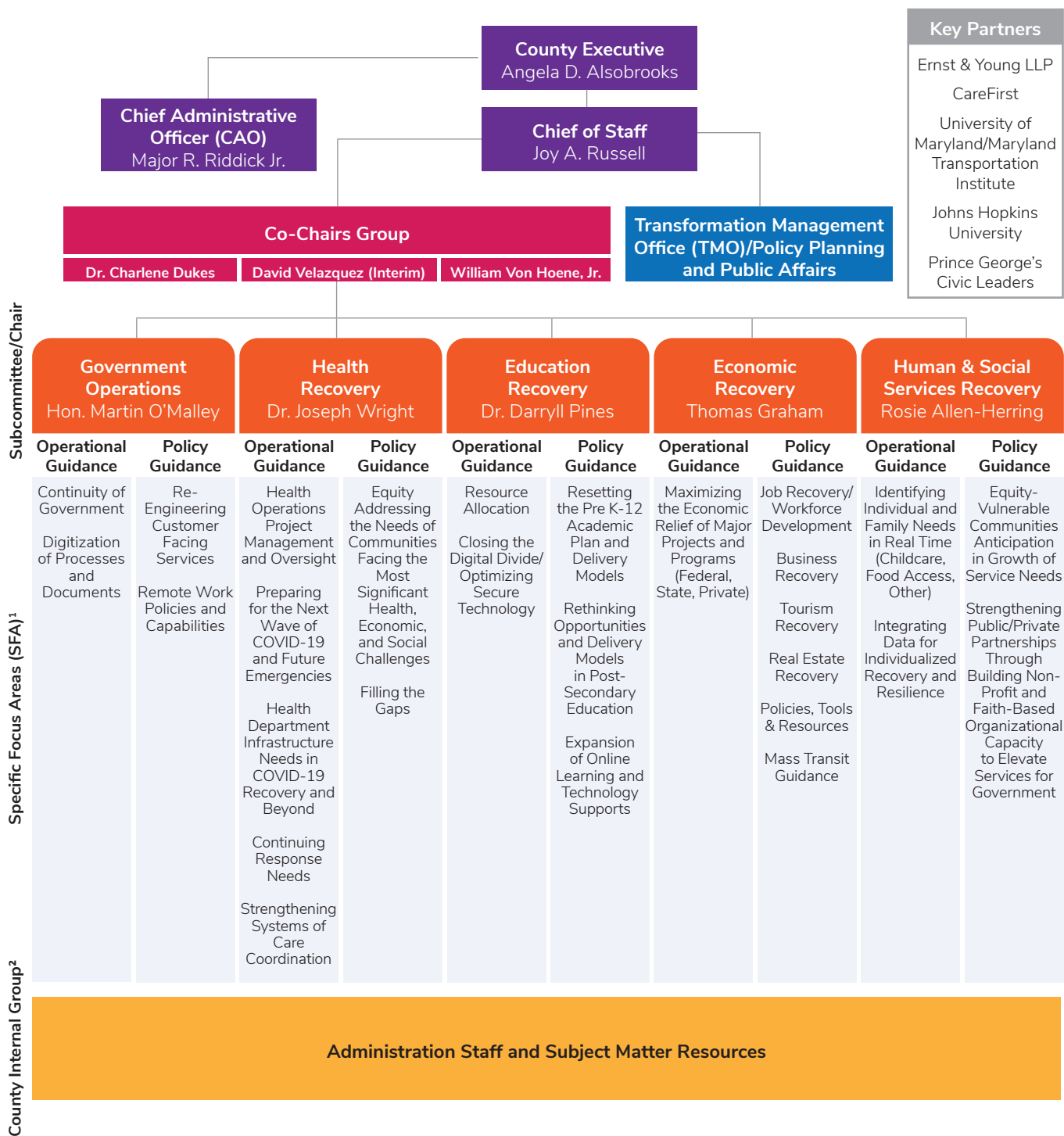


### Human and Social Services Recovery

Reimagining human services to bolster our County's proud record of being one of the best places to work, live and thrive



# Task Force Organizational Chart



<sup>1</sup>SFAs are the focus areas for each subcommittee

<sup>2</sup>County Internal Group supports subcommittee Chair and respective subcommittee

# Economic Recovery Subcommittee



## Message from the subcommittee chair

Igniting a quicker recovery for residents and our businesses is central to the Forward Task Force's work. Our Economic Recovery Subcommittee has presented strategies that enhance business growth while encouraging innovation and expanding access to jobs for County residents. Through collaboration and innovation, we can maximize economic relief and position the County for greater growth in the months and years to come.

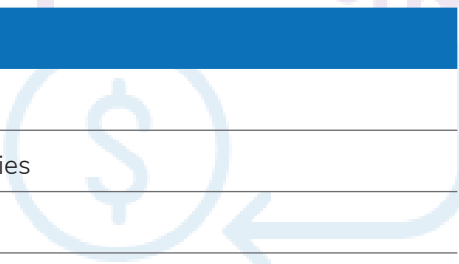
### Thomas Graham

Chair, Economic Recovery Subcommittee  
Principal, TH Graham and Associates

## Recommended Actions

<b>Green Book Campaign</b>	Promote the Green Book as a one-stop shop for small and minority-owned businesses to find resources and services for navigating the contract procurement process for public and private bids.
<b>Expand Technical Business Assistance/Support</b>	Provide small and minority-owned businesses with reopening resources, access to federal and state stimulus and capital, and technical assistance with various applications and track applicant outcomes.
<b>Enhanced Bus Service</b>	Increase bus service on "The Bus" (the County-based bus service) in high-need areas to support mobility for essential workers and county residents.
<b>BUY PGC Marketing Campaign</b>	Improve the BUY PGC website and develop a smartphone app for ease of use by local consumers. Create a social media campaign utilizing hashtags to increase outreach to residents; spotlighting businesses in the County will encourage residents to spend locally.
<b>Fast Track Shovel Ready Projects</b>	Fast Track fully funded projects that are close to the finish line (will start construction between Q2-Q4 2020). Implementation of this recommendation will demonstrate that the County is "open for business," especially in targeted areas where future placemaking opportunities are available for additional investment.

## Economic Recovery Subcommittee Members



Name	Organization
Hon. Anthony Brown	U.S. House of Representatives
April Richardson	Culinary Partnerships and Food Opportunities
B. Doyle Mitchell	Industrial Bank
Brunson Cooper	Corenic Construction Group
Chris Bloyer	Washington Football Team
Chris Borgal	National Harbor
Daniel Flores	Greater Washington Board of Trade
Hon. David Harrington	Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce
Derrick Perkins	Bank of America
Erin Bradley	AOBA
Francey Youngberg	Melwood
Gary Michael	NAI Michael
Jair Lynch	Jair Lynch Real Estate
Hon. Jim Estep	Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable
Kerry Watson	MGM National Harbor
Korey Neal	K. Neal Truck and Bus Center
Mark Lawrence	Inncuvate
Hon. Mel Franklin	Prince George's County Council
P. Michael Errico	PMELLC
Rick Edson	HCADC
Stephanie Williams	Bozzuto Management
Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick	Howard University



# Education Recovery Subcommittee



## Message from the subcommittee chair

The pandemic has challenged our community to reimagine how we provide high-quality educational services in a post-COVID world, leveraging the best of in-person, hybrid and virtual learning environments. From K-12, we will ensure that our students are college- and career-ready, well-rounded and prepared for today's globally competitive reality. We are committed to ensuring our institutions of higher education offer the highest-quality experience, worthy of the caliber of our students. This Administration is also committed to a holistic approach to empower youth to achieve their full potential.

### Dr. Darryll Pines, PhD

Chair, Education Recovery Subcommittee

President-Designate, University of Maryland College Park

## Recommended Actions

<b>Bridging the Digital Divide</b>	Ensure that every Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) household has internet connectivity.
<b>Maximize Education Funding Opportunity</b>	Encourage eligible institutions to seek available grants and other funding sources to partially offset losses, mitigate student learning loss and prevent employee reductions.
<b>Anytime, Any Place Learning</b>	Record classes for students for review at any time, allowing students to review difficult material multiple times and make up for missed class time outside normal school hours. Include content other than normal curriculum learning to encourage students to explore other interests.
<b>Addressing Crises with Deliberative Dialogue</b>	Leverage university resources to address the two intersecting crises and related issues facing our communities: COVID-19 and racial injustice. Develop new programs to support deliberative dialogue in schools addressing social justice, economic disparities, and the emotional health and well-being of students.
<b>Digital Empowerment Program</b>	Develop a coordinated communications campaign aimed at reaching out to all families, particularly those that are underserved and hardest to reach.
<b>Holistic Approach to Student Well-being</b>	Engage professionals — guidance counselors, pupil personnel workers, psychologists, social workers, student support specialists, paraprofessionals and school secretaries — to provide regular “check-ins” with students and families during this time of closure. This “village” approach would help provide wraparound services for students and families, could help increase engagement, and provide for the social-emotional needs of the students.
<b>Universal Laptop Program</b>	Provide a computing device for all PGCPS students to help them participate in online learning: iPads for pre-K students, touch screen Chromebooks for grades 1-2 and Chromebooks for grades 3-12.
<b>Expansion of Dual Enrollment Programs</b>	Increase promotion and support for College Dual Enrollment Programs.

## Education Recovery Subcommittee Members

Name	Organization
Dr. Alvin Thornton	Prince George's County School Board
Dr. Aminta Breaux	Bowie State University
Dr. Christyl Johnson	NASA
Duane Deason	2U, Inc.
Dr. Falecia Williams	Prince George's Community College
Hon. Joanne C. Benson	Maryland State Senate
Lupi Quinteros-Grady	LAYC
Dr. Marco Clark	Bishop McNamara High School
Dr. Monica Goldson	Prince George's County Public Schools



# Government Operations Subcommittee



## Message from the subcommittee chair

COVID-19 has challenged the County to continue meeting the needs of our residents while maintaining the safety of employees and maximizing virtual resources. Our Forward Task Force Government Operations Subcommittee is releasing several recommendations that use commonsense and data-driven solutions to rethink how we serve Prince Georgians — not just in the midst of this pandemic but in the future. Residents should expect timely and accurate information, rapid deployment of resources, implementation of proven tactics and consistent follow-up delivered with a standard of excellence.

### The Honorable Martin O'Malley

Chair, Government Operations Subcommittee  
Former Governor, State of Maryland

## Recommended Actions

<b>Conduct Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) training for County employees</b>	Train County agency representatives on Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) online planning system so they may support completion of their agency-specific COOP.
<b>Conduct Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) training for Appointing Authorities</b>	Provide the Appointing Authorities an overview of the COOP online planning system. This ensures County alignment on the importance, efficacy and utility of the agency-specific COOP in an emergency or disaster.
<b>Customer Facing Services Review and Inventory</b>	Inventory all customer-facing services to ensure the County continues to provide government services to citizens in the most effective and convenient manner.
<b>Digitization of County Files, Correspondence and Services</b>	Transition from the use of hard copy documents and files and eliminate collecting hard copy documents from customers to better enable remote work within the County.
<b>Enhance Remote Work Policies</b>	Revise the County's current remote work policy to include flexible, alternate and telework; implement the new policy; and provide training for managers and employees.



## Government Operations Subcommittee Members

Name	Organization
Artis Hampshire-Cowan	Leveraged Leadership Group, LLC
Terry Speigner	NGEN
Hon. Tracy Gant	Prince George's County Municipal Association
Supported by the administration's Government Operations internal working group	





# Health Recovery Subcommittee



## Message from the subcommittee chair

Improving Prince Georgians' health outcomes and bolstering our health systems has never been more important. The Forward Task Force's Health Recovery Subcommittee has proposed changes that promote and enhance the physical and mental health and well-being of all Prince Georgians. Task Force members are also focused on the County's health preparedness in the event of another crisis, shoring up our internal infrastructure, rethinking how we collaborate within the health community and improving efficiencies in communication.

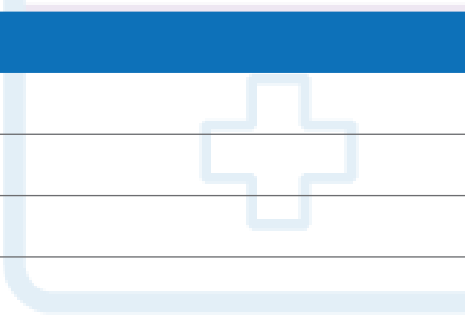
### Dr. Joseph Wright, MD

Chair, Health Recovery Subcommittee  
Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer  
University of Maryland Capital Region Health

## Recommended Actions

<b>Uniformed Data Collection to address Diversity and Equity</b>	Require County government (Health, DSS and DFS) contracts that are awarded to collect specific data to address diversity and equity. Include a standard provision within the contract boilerplate template and leverage small, local and minority businesses.
<b>Health Department Funding Gap Infographic</b>	Develop a high-level infographic that will highlight the funding gap for Health Department needs.
<b>Establish Health Department Assessment Team</b>	Form and empower an internal team within the Health Department to assess strategic infrastructure needs to respond to COVID-19 and beyond, and make recommendations for achieving them.
<b>Support our Healthcare Workforce</b>	Identify and implement an infectious-disease safety training program for employees engaged in patient care. Provide training during onboarding and for existing employees.
<b>Refining Processes for Dissemination of Resources</b>	Disseminate a list of available resources (AMTs, trailers, tents, logistics resources) to all partners and information on how to access.
<b>Establish Agreement for Quarantine Facility(ies)</b>	Establish a Memorandum of Understanding for a hotel facility to be utilized as a quarantine facility during an emergency.
<b>Countywide Debrief of Best Practices and Lessons Learned</b>	Host a countywide debrief, with broad stakeholder input, of lessons learned from the initial phases of the COVID-19 response to share best practices, opportunities for improvement and actionable solutions for subsequent pandemic responses.
<b>Streamline the County's Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Purchasing Power</b>	Integrate supply chain representation into the regular emergency management touch points through invitations to join County-led meetings/calls involving acquisition of PPE and items related to pandemic response. Coordination required by OCS and OEM (OCS advised this is currently underway).
<b>COVID-19 Hotline Sustainability and Efficiency</b>	Transition the Health Department Hotline Call Center to an automated call number prompt system. Residents will continue to receive recorded test site locations and hours, test results and additional information from 211 and 311, and staff can return to their regular positions.
<b>Develop a Negotiated Indirect Cost Reimbursement Agreement (NICRA)</b>	Establish a NICRA to allow the County to allocate funds for indirect expenses related to administering federal dollars. Finance advised there is a provisional agreement that provides a 10% rate that may be used by County agencies.
<b>Mass Communication and Notifications</b>	Implement short message service texting technology for urgent and/or important health care mass communication to Prince George's County residents to reduce the amount of time for urgent or emergent health information to reach residents.
<b>Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) Preparedness Program</b>	Establish the requirement of PPE for the County's stockpile; establish streamlined procedures with timelines for acquiring and distributing PPE; establish a matrix on appropriate PPE acquisition.

## Health Recovery Subcommittee Members



Name	Organization
Casiya Thaniel	Microsoft
Catalina Sol	La Clinica del Pueblo
Christine Wray	MedStar Southern Maryland
Djawa Hall	SEIU1199
Dr. Geoff Mount-Varner	Physician
Maria Gomez	Mary's Center
Maria Tildon	CareFirst
Dr. Mohan Suntha	University of Maryland Medical System
Nancy Ross	Healthcare Professional
Patricia Arzuaga, Esq.	Prince George's County Latino Advisory Board
Paul Grenaldo	Doctors Community Hospital
Dr. Terrence Fullum	Howard University



# Human and Social Services Recovery Subcommittee



## Message from the subcommittee chair

As your government, we serve you — our residents. Now more than ever, in this time of need, Prince Georgians should feel local government's presence and understand the resources available to residents. The Forward Task Force's Human and Social Services Recovery team is working to expand and strengthen partnerships, connect allied organizations for greater efficiencies, and improve communications to provide additional resources to families and residents.

### Rosie Allen-Herring

Human and Social Services Recovery Subcommittee

President and CEO, United Way of the National Capital Area

## Recommended Actions

<b>Formalize Partnerships for Community Engagement</b>	Enhance and strengthen pre-existing partnership between Prince George's County agencies and partners to consolidate and collaborate efforts.
<b>Community Mask Access Campaign</b>	Implement a regular mask distribution program to help protect the community. The County has worked hard to secure masks for those most in need, but residents have had to secure their own, often reusing face coverings multiple times before discarding or cleaning them.
<b>Survey on Returning to Senior Nutrition Sites</b>	Develop a survey for older adults and those with differing abilities to assess their comfort level with returning to senior nutrition center sites and aid in determining what would make them feel safer moving forward.
<b>Food Distribution Coordination</b>	Expand information gathering to manage and map residents in need of food and have a czar work with existing programs servicing older residents and people with disabilities.
<b>Create Listing of County Home-Based Support Programs</b>	Identify current community and home-based service programs throughout Prince George's County agencies and partners to consolidate and collaborate efforts. Conduct a review regarding which agencies operate these programs, the mission of these programs, resources and/or services provided, and the qualifiers.
<b>Know the Facts — Eviction Public Service Announcement (PSA)</b>	Push for a longer moratorium with clear guidelines and directives for landlords and tenants. Identify and involve private-sector landlords who have set a good example to participate in the PSA. Consider federal money for emergency short-term relief. Develop further guidelines for homeowner eviction relief.
<b>Nonprofit and Faith-Based Service Directory</b>	Assess and itemize services and resources in a way that is accessible to the community so that synergies for partnerships and collaboration for funding between the two sectors can be identified.
<b>County Senior Living Liaison</b>	Establish a County liaison/ombudsman for senior living facilities and nursing homes.



## Human and Social Services Recovery Subcommittee Members

Name	Organization
Daphne Forbes	Microsoft
Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning	Ebenezer AME Church
Pastor John K. Jenkins, Sr.	First Baptist Church of Glenarden
Hon. Rushern Baker, II	Baker Strategy Group
Hon. Sheila Tillerson Adams	Prince George's County Circuit Court
Hon. Sydney Harrison	Prince George's County Council
Tammy Bresnahan	AARP
Tonia Wellons	Greater Washington Community Foundation
Rev. Tony Lee	Community of Hope AME





# What's Next

Our “Actions Today” report represents our collective work of assessing successful government programming and conceptualizing innovative ideas that will be swiftly expanded and implemented this calendar year with a focus on recovery. However, it is just the first step in our work together. Now the Prince George’s Forward Task Force has turned its attention to our next phases of recommendation development.

Coming next are our reports with recommendations that fall into the categories of “Visions for Tomorrow”

and “A Redefined Future.” These recommendations will be designed for implementation timelines that span through the current fiscal year, ending in June 2021, and years beyond.

Combined with our “Actions Today” report, the next two phases of reporting will allow us to achieve our collective mission of fully reimagining Prince George’s County and how your government will evolve in this new reality to meet the needs of all our residents regardless of where they live, work or play.



“Our goal is to not just get back to where we were before this pandemic, not to return to the world of the past, but to go faster and farther for our residents than we ever have before.”

**Angela Alsobrooks**  
Prince George’s County Executive



[www.princegeorgesforward.com](http://www.princegeorgesforward.com)

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