Service Needs Assessment of LNESC Student Participants and Families Affected by COVID-19

LNESC approach to COVID-19
The LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESC) has been evaluating the impact of the COVID-19 health crisis and its’ effect on our ability to provide quality educational and leadership programming. With our team of Directors and community partners, LNESC has identified critical needs for students and their families, as they face the need for social distancing, possible wage losses and the fear of becoming infected with the coronavirus (COVID-19). In an effort to relieve and empower vulnerable populations, with the support of current and new corporate partners, LNESC is focused on providing crucial resources and educational services to the Hispanic community. We invite you to consider supporting LNESC initiatives by reviewing the information below that describes priority needs for students and families.

LNESC Program Sites
Our education centers are at the forefront of helping disadvantaged students across the United States and Puerto Rico. Each center is uniquely operated, and every center is approaching the health crisis specific to the local needs of their communities. Efforts will be focused in areas where LNESC sites are located.

- Albuquerque, NM
- Corpus Christi, TX
- Kansas City, MO
- San Antonio, TX
- Austin, TX
- Dallas, TX
- Miami, FL
- San Diego, CA
- Bayamon, PR
- El Paso, TX
- Philadelphia, PA
- Oxford, CA
- Colorado Springs, CO
- Houston, TX
- Pueblo, CO
- Vancouver, WA

Communicate through Technology
The effect COVID-19 on education equity is alarming, given that low-income students are already impacted with a significant achievement gap. Now that most students are being integrated into a virtual learning experience, many will lag even further behind due to limited or no access to the internet nor the necessary hardware. Education equity is even more important in the moment, as increasingly, broadband access and related digital technologies are even more crucial to closing persistent social gaps between lower- and higher-income families. Students need access to high-quality learning opportunities and technology to connect to a variety of resources that includes email, educational platforms, and online development programs.

- **Access to Laptops/Tablets:** For students to use for academic work and connect to internet resources
  - Costs per program: $7,500

- **Internet Service:** Provide internet service for qualifying students
  - Cost per program: $1,500
Video Conference Subscription: Virtually connects students to instructors and peers
  - Costs per program: $1,000

Internet Hotspots: Tech support for LNESC field staff to be able to telework
  - Costs per site: $700

Access to Education Resources
LNESC is exploring innovative approaches to identify and develop virtual education opportunities. As the world around us is changing, the need for digital inclusion is now more important than ever. High school seniors that had their last semester cut short due to school closings will be entering college with less preparation. LNESC seeks to provide college readiness activities to guide students to remedial education and mentorship opportunities with peer leadership. The following are education initiatives that are necessary for an evolving virtual pedagogy.

- Dedicated Webpage: Development of additional web pages dedicated to resources and access to virtual education
  - Costs for development: $5,000 - $50,000

- Online Courses: Virtual education software for student academic development
  - Cost per site: $2,000 - $10,000

- Virtual Workshops: Online seminars focused on specific subjects in education
  - Costs per workshop: $2,000

- Peer-to-Peer Connection: Platform for student participants to interconnect
  - Cost for technical setup: $5,000

- Technical Consultant: Professional support for website development and media outreach
  - Cost for technical support: $35,000 - $75,000

- College Readiness Virtual Conference: Host a virtual forum based on college readiness topics presented by education experts and instructors
  - Cost for conference development: $10,000 - $25,000

- Summer Workshops: Forums and speaker series hosted at LNESC sites to prepare students for their first semester at college.
  - Cost per workshop: $2,000

Basic Essential Needs
Students and families need basic, but essential items for day-to-day living. Besides food and medication, families can struggle to pay for these necessary items due to loss of wages or additional expenses as created by the health crisis. LNESC is soliciting for direct contributions or support in the form of gift cards. The LNESC National office for distribution to LNESC service areas with the most need.

- Toiletries
- Cleaning/Disinfecting Products
- Food Staples
- Postage Stamps
About LNESC
LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESC) is a nationally organized, community-based network of 16 educational centers serving economically challenged communities across the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Established in 1973, LNESC now serves roughly 14,000 disadvantaged Hispanic and minority youth per year through counseling, career preparation, educational enrichment, leadership development, and scholarship programs.

Contact LNESC
For more information or to explore potential collaborations for these services and programs, please contact Raul Sanchez, Director of Development at RSanchez@LNESC.org or John Moya, Director of Corporate Relations at JMoya@LNESC.org.