

AMERICA'S LOCAL RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In a year of uncertainty, local leaders stepped up

Last March, the National League of Cities and Bloomberg Philanthropies teamed up to create the COVID-19: Local Action Tracker to collect and share actions taken by local leaders in response to the coronavirus pandemic. For the last year, this project has highlighted the efforts of cities and ensured local leaders have as much information as possible to guide their communities through this crisis.

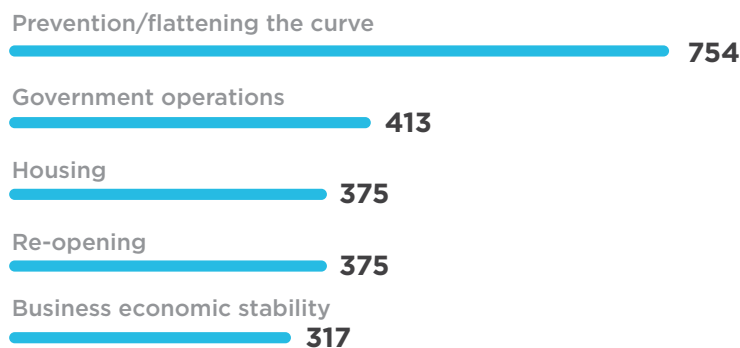
As the pandemic ravaged our communities, local leaders worked tirelessly to put policies in place to protect and support America.

2,800+
Policy actions

were taken to address the coronavirus pandemic in America's biggest 100 cities.

More than just words – cities across the nation took these concrete steps:

TOP 5 POLICY AREAS
of actions taken



Prevented community spread



Provided stable housing



Supported local businesses



Saved lives.

HOUSING

Cities, towns and villages quickly implemented policies to keep residents housed and sheltered. From expanding shelter operations to allow for physical distancing to eviction mediation programs to keep people housed, local leaders stepped up long before the federal government enacted a national eviction moratorium. **Throughout the month of March alone, when the pandemic initially hit our communities, municipalities set up over 120 housing policies.** Many local governments took existing housing programs and scaled them up at a speed unlike ever before.

San Antonio's housing program moved the previously paper-only process online and provided cash assistance directly to residents in need.

ECONOMIC STABILITY AND SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT

Municipalities have employed many policies and practices to help businesses get through the COVID-19 pandemic including:



Adjusting zoning regulations and restraints



Offering zero-interest loans



Expanding access to PPE



Coordinating access to PPP



Decreasing tax burdens

As COVID-19 compelled many businesses to decrease or close inside seating, municipalities adjusted zoning to provide more opportunities for outside seating.

Philadelphia allowed four adjustments: sidewalk cafés, streeteries, temporary private lots and temporary street closures, for example.

These changes were used to mitigate revenue losses from decreased capacity.

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

As the pandemic continues and changes, so do the steps cities are taking to tackle it.

89 out of **100** top cities by population size

have enacted vaccine distribution plans and related policy actions.



Cities took actions large and small. They set up COVID-19 vaccination pages on their websites. They crafted holistic plans to ensure equitable access to vaccines.