

The following information, guidance and ideas were generated through affiliate input and the Love INC National staff. Affiliates are facing similar circumstances, and yet each affiliate's context is unique. Not all of the following will be a fit for every affiliate, however, we hope that some information will be helpful to you. Of course, your functioning will be limited to being in compliance with national, state, and local laws and guidance.

VIDEO CONFERENCING RESOURCES

Video conferencing is a helpful tool to keep people connected, and right now these options are free to use:

- Skype: Allows video conferencing for up to 50 people
- Zoom: If the free capabilities don't meet your needs, you can upgrade for additional features
- Google Hangouts Meet: If your Affiliate uses Nonprofit G Suite, you already have Hangouts, Chat and Meet. Hangouts Meet is making their premium functionality available for free until July 1. This allows you to host virtual meetings for up to 250 people and live-stream for free. Those joining your meeting from a desktop don't have to have a Gmail account either, which makes it simple to use.
- Microsoft Teams

TRANSFORMATIONAL MINISTRY

Strive to keep aspects of your transformational ministry going while not meeting face-to-face. Some affiliates are using video casting programs (YouTube live, Facebook live or video conferencing) to enable classes to meet virtually. Others are connecting participants and mentors via video conference or phone. Often there is a sense of camaraderie and support that develops between participants. Consider an appropriate and voluntary way for participants to connect. This could be done through a private Facebook group initiated and moderated by your affiliate. Ask participants and volunteers to continue to set aside the normal weekly meeting time for any of the connecting activities above. Many participants need and value the incentive resources earned through participating in the program. Consider what resources you can continue to provide to participants safely, while being mindful of social distancing.

GAP MINISTRIES

Non-essential Gap Ministries should be shut-down, while more essential Gap Ministries, like food and personal care items, will be in even more demand than before. Consider what your affiliate can do to help keep these pantries open with a limited number of people (volunteers and staff). Pre-packaged orders are preferable for client pickup and delivery.



Collaborate Around Food + Grocery Delivery

Rich Henderson, Executive Director of Love INC of South San Jose, CA, would like to connect with affiliates interested in discussing food pantry and grocery delivery. The initial conversation will take place on Tuesday, March 24 at Noon EASTERN. There is no need to download any application when joining from your desktop computer, just click this meeting [link](#) or join by phone: 567-238-9903 PIN: 504 163 113#.

CONNECTING WITH CHURCHES

Churches have been busy making internal adjustments. Don't forget to express care and support for your churches (see the forthcoming *A Call to Action, A Call to Love* campaign for an idea on how to reach out to churches). At the appropriate time, convene individual or group conversations with your churches to hear and share about community outreach ideas short and longer-term. **[Here's a great example of being proactive in communicating with churches from Love INC of Vermillion County, IL.](#)**

BOARD LEADERSHIP

We recommend that you continue to meet as a board (use video conferencing if necessary). As ambassadors and overseers of the ministry, it is important for boards to:

- Be kept up-to-date on ministry adjustments
- Be aware of how the staff is holding up
- Brainstorm contingencies
- Anticipate the longer-term impact of the anticipated economic downturn (such as a potential increase in need and decrease of resources)
- Pray together for the ministry

DONOR RELATIONS: GIK AND FUNDRAISING

Fundraising during times of crisis can be a delicate matter, however, it is important to advocate for financial and GIK support for the frontline mission of Love INC which serves those experiencing hardship (in the immediate and longer-term economic downturn). Be specific about what and how much is needed. This [article](#) provides some helpful hints. For some affiliates, the response to Covid-19 has created conflicts with scheduled fundraisers. Some have decided to postpone, and others, like our Tampa affiliate, decided to create a virtual alternative. [Check out their Stay At Home Banquet idea >](#)