



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COVID 19 DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTS WOMEN BECAUSE OF GENDER PAY GAP

Women of Color Faced Especially Heavy Burden Even Before COVID-19

(Chicago): Every year since 2010, the Equal Pay Day Chicago coalition has held an Equal Pay Day event in Chicago. Ordinarily, March 31 would have been the date we gathered, to mark Equal Pay Day, which is the day where women's pay on average catches up with men's average pay. The persisting pay gap between women and men means women have less pay and fewer savings, which is a problem even in the best of times. In these worst of times, the pay gap is devastating, especially for women of color who experience the most significant gap. So this year we are announcing a change in solidarity with our sisters of color, many of whom experience much wider wage gaps and bear much heavier burdens.

WHAT: COVID 19 and Women's Pay Gap/Change in Equal Pay Day Event
Virtual Press Conference

WHEN: March 31, 2020
10:00 AM

WHERE: Via videoconferencing, Facebook LIVE

WHO: **Equal Pay Day Chicago, a coalition of over 70 organizations and business and government agencies. Representatives of the coalition will include:**

- Barbara Yong, Founder, Equal Pay Day Chicago
- American Association of University Women
- Linda Xóchitl Tortolero, President & CEO, Mujeres Latinas en Acción
- Felicia Davis, Chicago Foundation for Women
- Cherita Ellens, Women Employed
- Dorri McWhorter, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Women officials representing city, county and state government including:

- City of Chicago Chief Equity Officer Candace Moore (confirmed)
- Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle (confirmed)
- Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx (confirmed)
- State Comptroller Susana Mendoza (confirmed; available for Spanish language media)

WHY: This year marks the 10th year that the Equal Pay Day Chicago coalition has planned equal pay events in Chicago. Traditionally, we've held those events on the Equal Pay Day in the spring that marks the average wage gap—which would be today. But we know that many women of color experience much wider gaps, and they won't reach pay equity until later in the year. Even before COVID-19, our coalition had decided to move this year's Equal Pay Day event until the fall, to coincide with Latina Equal Pay Day October 29, 2020. Latina Equal Pay Day

is the last equal pay day observed in 2020, highlighting the pay disparities even among women. Under the rallying cry, “not without our sisters,” women’s advocacy organizations in Chicago decided to push back the Equal Pay Day rally to center the experiences of women of color, and in recognition of the fact that we will not close the gender wage gap until every woman is compensated with equal pay for equal work.

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About Equal Pay Day Chicago: Equal Pay Day Chicago is a coalition of over 70 organizations, businesses and government agencies with a common goal of eliminating the pay gap. For more information, visit equalpaydaychi.xyz, or follow @EqualPayDayChic [Twitter](#), @EqualPayDayChicago on [Facebook](#), and @EqualPayDayChi on [Instagram](#).