



# Equity Council Agenda

**Zoom Meeting Time: October 28, 2020 3:30 - 4:30 PM**

## Welcomes & Introductions

- Executive Office of Health and Human Services Secretary Womazetta Jones welcomed the Council members

## Housing Accessibility During COVID-19 | Kim Ahern (Deputy Legal Counsel, Office of Governor Gina Raimondo), Michael Tondra (Chief, Office of Housing and Community Development), Kyle Bennett (Director of Policy and Research, United Way of RI)

- The State is partnering with local non-profits including HousingWorksRI, the United Way of Rhode Island, and Crossroads to push forward eviction aversion initiatives such as Housing Helps RI. For more information, visit: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/homeownersandrenters/>
- The United Way of RI has added nine (9) new staff members in order to expedite the processing of applications for the [Safe Harbor housing assistance program](#)

## Updates from the Last Meeting

- The Equity Council will meet on a biweekly basis starting on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. State Staff will be sending all Council members an invitation to a group discussion platform for communication in between meetings.

## Community Feedback: What are you hearing from the community? What should the State know?

- Members were concerned about the potential mistrust of a COVID-19 vaccination from community members of color due to the historical precedent of medical abuse in these communities as well as widespread misinformation

## Next Steps

- State Staff will work on setting up a brainstorming session with Equity Council members who are part of the COVID-19 Vaccine Subcommittee. For more information, visit: <https://health.ri.gov/covid/vaccine/>

## Close

- Closing remarks given by Secretary Womazetta Jones

