

Appendix 6: Suggestions to consider for intervention on key areas of needs arising from the COVID-19 impacts

Immediately implementable and minimal resources needed (A)	Readily implementable and dedicated resources needed (B)	Longer term implementation and more resources for high impact (C)
<i>1) Supports for Social Distancing and Isolation Requirements</i>		
Increase flexibility for virtual visits for legal system issues (e.g., children services) and collaboration with the Brokers during the pandemic would make people feel safer.	Promote strategies to support individuals living in crowded premises to self-isolate or quarantine or with COVID-19 infection. (i.e., mobilizing unused hotel space; network of community housing units such as basement suites).	Support strategies for community engagement, knowledge mobilization and bi-directional communication.
Provide strategies to ensure that the identity of people who test positive for COVID-19 are protected in the contact tracing process to reduce stigma and encourage willingness to disclose potential contacts.	Provide infrastructure to support emergency food and shelter needs for families needing to isolate themselves (e.g., services such as Meals on Wheels, grocery delivery)	
Transmit COVID-19 information through trusted natural community networks and avenues		
Publicize that existing procedures protect the identity of people who test positive for COVID-19 in the contact tracing process to encourage willingness to disclose potential contacts.		
<i>2) Formal Health and Social Care Systems - Communication, Processes & Documentation</i>		
Work with laboratory and diagnostic imaging community providers to support safety in fragile seniors without access to automobiles to wait in when going for testing.		
Increase flexibility in social supports through ensuring the		

default decision is not to defund people. Currently support is being cut without notice for any small glitch in the file. It then takes 1-2 weeks to get these families back on. If possible, a notice of a change on the account and effort to sort it without cutting them off would be a help.		
Advise the Christmas Bureau - complex intake forms make it difficult for families without adequate linguistic skills and education to receive support.		
3) Employment Security & Labour-Market Attachment		
Require employers to not fire employees for following public health directions to self-isolate or quarantine.	Develop smaller, low-cost daycare pods to preserve peoples' ability to go to work.	Increase supports and protections for workers engaged in temporary or "on call" work which can end without notice.
Provide opportunity for negotiating income support with Alberta Works by permitting verbal consent for Brokers to be able to assist clients on the phone with government workers.	Provide workers serving urgent needs like Long Term Care, some supplemental income to support their families when they need to isolate.	
Permit MCHB Brokers to provide cultural and interpretive services to increase access to income support with Alberta Works.		
Facilitate income support via Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH), by relaxing the current time frame requirement for repeat documentation and a physician's signature during the pandemic.		
Provide emergency bridging funds for people with COVID-19 or requiring to isolate on public health orders until the retroactive federal relief funds kick in (e.g., as with past floods and forest fire		

Appendix 6, as submitted by the authors. Appendix to: Campbell-Scherer D, Chiu Y, Naadu Ofosu N. Illuminating and mitigating the evolving impacts of COVID-19 on ethnocultural communities: a participatory action mixed methods study. *CMAJ* 2021. doi: 10.1503/cmaj.210131. Copyright © 2021 The Author(s) or their employer(s). To receive this resource in an accessible format, please contact us at cmajgroup@cmaj.ca.

situations where short term response involved provision of direct deposit funds)		
4) Impact on Children & Youth		
Support youth pursuing high school education and upgrading through recognizing that year 2020 was suboptimal by extending education funding supports beyond the mandatory terminal age of 19 to age 21. Increasing funding to the age of 21 for students with the refugee code would shift the trajectory for newcomer youth, allowing them to complete high school, transition to post-secondary and increase their future earning potential.	Provide infrastructure support (internet, devices) for families to support home schooling.	Provide experienced, professional youth workers are needed to address the serious needs of the youth in the South Sudanese and Somali communities.