Title: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

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Problem to be addressed:
NAD needs to investigate and advocate on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic such as preventative measures that are inclusive, health/mental health disparities, housing, unemployment, access to public services and benefits, and other areas of significant socio-economic impact. Also, NAD needs to continue to ensure accurate and accessible information gets out to the community related to the pandemic and stimulus programs.

Proposed Solution:
NAD needs to set up a Pandemic Task Force comprising of 1 person from each state association. This Task Force will examine how information is currently being distributed about the virus. Once done, they can either advocate for communication-accessible information to be provided or produce such information in accessible language to the Deaf, DeafBlind, Late Deafened, and Hard of Hearing communities.

Rationale:
News and information about COVID-19 changes often and may or may not be accessible. COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, a significant impact on our daily lives, and protecting ourselves is of utmost importance. It is imperative that we have timely and accurate information to be safe.

Fiscal Impact:
1. If NAD staff are assigned as a liaison to this priority, then staffing time would be a financial impact.
2. Suggest this Task Force meet via ZOOM to minimize travel expenses.
3. NAD would need to purchase either the Pro ($14.99/month/host) or the business ($19.99/month/host) ZOOM platform.
4. Federal grants are available through the U.S. Small Business Administration, Council of Nonprofits, FEMA, and other organizations.

NAD Board/HQ Response:
The NAD has been working very hard since March to advocate for accessible information and with federal and state governments to ensure appropriate policies, and to develop several position statements regarding the needs of Deaf/Hard of Hearing/DeafBlind/Deaf and Disabled during this pandemic. The NAD is in support of this proposal.