



**Restaurants Face Uphill Battle** 4



**ESSENCE Turns 50** 7



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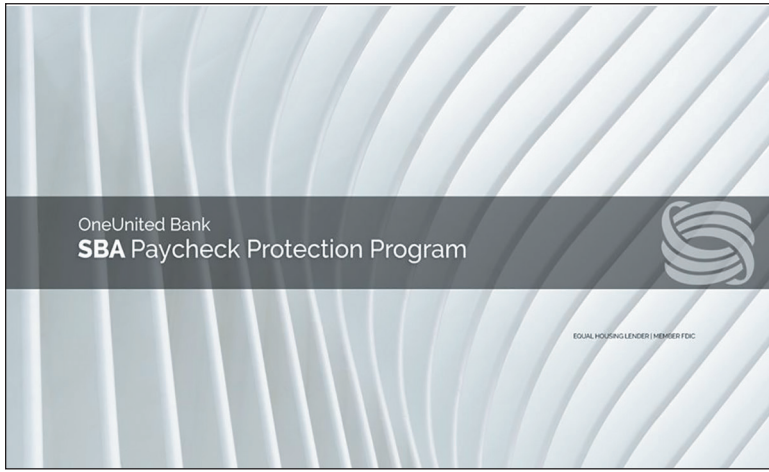
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## OneUnited Bank Launches PPP

*Largest Black-Owned Bank Has Unique Access To \$30 Billion Of Stimulus Funding*

(BPRW) OneUnited Bank, the largest Black owned bank in the country, is proud to announce the launch of its Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). OneUnited Bank, a Preferred SBA 7(a) lender, is offering PPP loans to its existing and new customers on a nationwide basis through its state-of-the-art online and mobile banking platform. OneUnited has unique access to \$30 billion of stimulus funding that was allocated to Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) as part of the second round of PPP.

The Paycheck Protection Program is part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) that provides forgivable small business loans to support payroll and certain other expenses. With the first roll out, many Black owned businesses were unable to secure loans before funds ran out. OneUnited Bank stepped in for the second round to ensure greater access to PPP for Black businesses.

"Most of our customers who filed PPP applications with other institu-

tions during the first round were not funded," says Teri Williams, President & COO of OneUnited Bank. "We're proud that OneUnited can step up to provide Black businesses with better access to stimulus funding."

"OneUnited Bank's nationwide online platform and the \$30 billion of Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs) allocated funds will provide minority communities a greater opportunity to access critically needed funding during this crisis," says Kevin Cohee, Chairman & CEO of OneUnited Bank.

A recent study by McKinsey & Company, "Investing in Black Lives and Livelihoods," indicated COVID-19 is both a public-health crisis and an economic emergency that poses a major threat to the long-term well-being of Black Americans unless public and private organizations respond immediately. According to the Brookings Institute, after a decade of Black business ownership gains since the 2008 recession, the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to be disproportionately devastating to Black and other minority and women owned businesses.

To address the disproportionate impact on the Black community, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act (PPP Enhancement Act) allocated \$30 billion for MDIs and other community lenders. With this allocation, OneUnited Bank is offering PPP as but one of many ways the Bank is stepping up to ensure the Black community receives its fair share.



## Obesity, High Blood Pressure, Diabetes 3 Most-Powerful Risk Factors

An analysis of more than 4,000 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in March by doctors at NYU Langone Health, and reported by Bloomberg News, showed that obesity plays a critical role in exacerbating the disease's potentially deadly impact.

The study showed that individuals 65 and over who were significantly overweight – carrying an extra 80 to 100 pounds – were three times as likely to need intensive care.

According to lead researcher Christopher Pettrilli, an assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, "the results make sense because obesity is a pro-inflammatory state: People who carry extra weight have higher levels of immune response and inflammation,"

Bloomberg News reported.

"And, according to the doctors, three of the most-powerful risk factors for a severe response to COVID are obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes, which, we know, are linked," said Weight Watchers of Arizona General Manager Deborah Wright. "People can't change their genes or their age, but they can change their weight and wellness right now. COVID is the first time we've seen a severe, acute life-threatening condition that presents a clear and present danger for which obesity exacerbates the problem and could make a life-or-death difference."

"Too often with obesity health, people tend to put off losing weight because the impact may not be evident for quite some time in dia-

betes, heart disease, joint pain and cancer," she said. "Addressing that challenge with immediate steps to lose weight has never been more important."

Nearly 90 percent of people in New York who have died from COVID-19 had other health conditions, Bloomberg News reported. The most common are high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol and heart disease – conditions made worse by excess weight. The study showed that overweight patients under 60 were twice as likely to be hospitalized as those who were thinner.

"No matter how an individual makes the move to lose weight and improve overall wellness, now is the time to act," Wright said.

SOURCE: WEIGHTWATCHERSAZ.COM

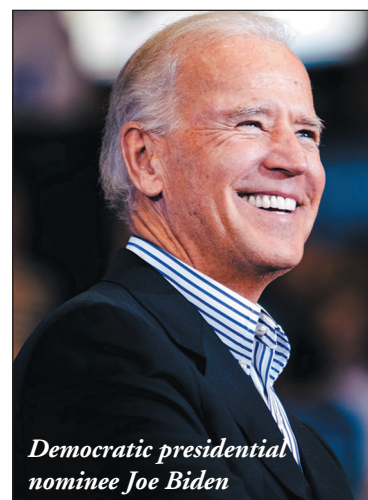
## Biden's Plan For Black America

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA

When former Vice President Joe Biden sat for an exclusive live stream interview with National Newspaper Publishers Association President and CEO, Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. in February, the now presumptive Democratic presidential nominee said it was crucial to secure the Black vote if he is to unseat President Donald Trump in November 2020.

Now, the two-time former second-in-command to President Barack Obama has laid out a comprehensive plan for African Americans. Biden said the plan reflects many months of work and feedback from local elected officials, activists, organizations, practitioners, policy experts, strategists, and young people.

His campaign called the plan "a living document." It said the Biden team looks forward to hearing from



Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden

everyone as they continue to develop the Democrat's vision for all of America.

In a news release, the campaign noted that Biden "knows we need a comprehensive agenda for African Americans with an ambition that matches the scale of the challenge and with a recognition that race-neutral policies are not a sufficient response to race-based disparities."

They said the Biden Plan for Black America would:

- Advance the economic mobility of African Americans and close the racial wealth and income gaps.
- Expand access to high-quality education and tackle racial inequity in our education system.
- Make far-reaching investments in ending health disparities by race.

*continued on page 2*

**THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY: MAY 11 1895**

*"I don't think that it is good for the world of music to have everything come out of the same mold."* – William Grant Still, the "Dean of African-American composers," is born in Woodville, Miss.



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# ElevateMeD Announces Inaugural Medical Scholars Program Cohort

SCOTTSDALE - In just one year, the Scottsdale-based nonprofit ElevateMeD has successfully self funded and now proudly announces the inaugural cohort of the Scholars Program on May 4. The 2020-2021 Scholars Program features a dynamic group of 10 medical students selected from distinguished partnering universities, each who are from underrepresented backgrounds in medicine.

The ElevateMeD Scholars program is a multifaceted program designed to develop the next generation of physician leaders. Each Scholar will be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship for each year remaining in their medical degree in addition to physician mentorship, access to peer network support, leadership development opportunities and financial management education. The applicant pool began with 30 student nominations from partnering institutions.

The members of the board of directors reviewed their applications and selected this year's cohort.

The 2020-2021 Scholars Program and their respective institutions are as listed:

- **Aaron Bia**, University of Arizona
- **Anthony Osifuye**, University of Minnesota
- **Christian Freeman**, Emory University

## ElevateMeD 2020-2021 Scholars



- **Gabriela Alejo**, UT Southwestern Medical Center
  - **Harvey Lewis**, Howard University
  - **Kalonji Cole**, Charles R. Drew University/UCLA
  - **Louisa Appiah**, East Carolina University
  - **Mahdieh Hosseini**, Temple University
  - **Shannon Coombs**, Mayo Clinic
  - **Shanita Thomas**, Wayne State University
- Founder Dr. Alyx Porter Um-

phrey understands the importance of this moment as it relates to the future of healthcare.

“Of all of the moments filled with various emotions that have been brought forward by CoVID-19, one of the most impactful and sustaining has been the selection process of our inaugural cohort of Scholars. I have never been more certain that our future is bright.

“These brilliant medical students embody the drive, resilience, and tenacity that is required to affect change regarding the disparities we

see in healthcare.”

ElevateMeD is committed to elevating the field of medicine by providing financial support and mentorship to future physicians. We aim to increase physician workforce diversity and improve cultural competence among physicians to reduce health disparities.

Learn more about our mission and vision by visiting [elevatedmed.org](http://elevatedmed.org) and follow on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook @elevatedmedinc. The official Scholars Program page is at [elevatedmed.org/scholars](http://elevatedmed.org/scholars).

ElevateMeD continues to make an impact by joining the national #GivingTuesdayNow campaign, an emergency response to the unprecedented need caused by COVID-19 for nonprofits, taking place May 5. The objective is to bring the world together to elevate the conversation regarding diversity in medicine and raise \$10,000 for programming for the 2020-2021 academic year.

Learn more about supporting ElevateMeD at [give.elevatedmed.org](http://give.elevatedmed.org). FRONT PHOTO: THE SOCIALPHOTO



## If I could do one thing, I'd make sure we stay healthy.

If you could do one thing for your community, what would it be? More walk-in clinics? More funding for health services closer to home? Completing the 2020 Census is a safe and easy way to inform billions in funding for hundreds of services and programs in your community. **Respond online, by phone, or by mail.**

Complete the census at:  
**2020CENSUS.GOV**

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.

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