

RECHARGE & RECOVER PHL



MEDIA FAQ

Q: What is the purpose of the Philadelphia Regional Recharge and Recovery Task Force?

A: In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia, its CEO Council for Growth, and more than 160 diverse and influential community leaders, the Philadelphia Regional Recharge and Recovery Task Force is a private-public partnership with the purpose of examining precise operating challenges for immediate economic recovery and develop actionable plans that identify practical, short-term solutions to fast-track key industry sector growth, while minimizing continued economic disruption. The effort is intended to re-energize the economy once it is deemed appropriate to reopen. In addition, the initiative will determine the type and scale of resources necessary to achieve accelerated short and mid-term economic recovery to inform local, state and federal governments.

Q: What is the problem it aims to address?

A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses of Greater Philadelphia lost an estimated 8.1% of GDP in the last six months and approximately 735,000 people lost employment. The size and severity of our vulnerable and underserved communities increased rapidly as a result. The Philadelphia Regional Recharge and Recovery Task Force brings together key leaders within the community to work collaboratively to accelerate job and economic growth through a series of recommendations and actions.

Q: Who makes up the Recharge and Recovery Task Force?

A: Members of the Task Force were thoughtfully and strategically selected to create a galvanization of private sector leaders. More than 160 individuals make up a catalytic team of influential and diverse leaders who are in the position to recommend tangible actions and bring them to fruition. This group includes Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf, Philadelphia City Council President Darrell Clarke, and leadership from the counties of Southeastern Pennsylvania, as well as business and civic leaders representing the following verticals:

- Higher Education
- Small & Mid-Sized Business
- Tourism, Hospitality, and Arts & Culture
- Health Care Delivery
- Financial Services
- Tech, Media, and Telecom
- Life Sciences
- Talent and Workforce

Q: What are the six key short-term actions of the Recharge & Recover PHL initiative?

A: The outputs of the Task Force take the form of the Recharge & Recover PHL initiative which intentionally focuses on key actions that require a sense of urgency, collaboration, and resources. All six are foundational to set in motion an accelerated recovery plan for the region. They are as follows:

1. Testing and Contact Tracing
2. Communication Coordination
3. Health and Safety Standards
4. Reskilling for High Demand Jobs
5. Skills-Based Hiring
6. Buy Black, brown, and local

These actions are strategically organized to accelerate outcomes. The first three actions involve the private-public partnership required to build out the region's COVID-19 testing and contact tracing infrastructure. The second set of actions are structured so that the private sector can start making commitments and taking actions now that will have a material impact on growth through scaling up diverse job opportunities. These are the first prioritized actions, with another 20+ priorities that have been identified for future and continued efforts.

Q: How will the key initiatives be implemented?

A: The Task Force has established consistent communications and an actionable plan where we are able to set short-term and long-term goals and record progress. We will provide public briefings as these initiatives take place.

Q: What is the timeline for implementation?

A: The Philadelphia Regional Recharge and Recovery Task Force formed in June 2020 with progress currently being made for all six short-term actions beginning first and foremost with partnerships. It is anticipated that progress on these initiatives will continue through June 2021.

Q: What outcomes are these initiatives expected to produce?

A: The initiatives are designed to produce accelerated and inclusive job growth, expansion of small to medium sized businesses, health and science advancement, and economic recovery while maintaining the health and safety of our community.

Q: How is the Philadelphia Regional Recharge and Recovery Task Force funded?

A: Funding comes entirely from private resources from Chamber member companies. No tax dollars fund this initiative.

Q: How will this initiative address the spread of COVID-19?

A: The Philadelphia Regional Recharge and Recovery Task Force will help coordinate a region-wide COVID-19 testing and contact tracing program and cooperatively solidify the PPE supply chain. Our plan includes coordinating communication strategies around health care provider safety, public health information, and the importance of COVID-19 prevention measures. We are also asking for businesses and venues to adopt a single, region-wide pledge and threshold/certification of health and safety to show that every precaution is being taken to keep our community safe.

Q: How will this initiative foster diversity and inclusion among businesses and workers?

A: The Task Force will work with businesses to reskill and hire under/unemployed residents into high-demand jobs for financial services and other immediate in-demand roles and to focus on skills-based hiring across industries. Additionally, we will create opportunities for Black- and brown-owned SMBs by partnering with large buyers to establish procurement goals and strategies.