ALGresearch

May 29, 2020

TO: **Interested Parties**
FROM: **Brian Stryker, Luke Martin**
RE: **Voters Nationwide Support Immediate Investment in Contact Tracing**

Based on the findings of our nationwide survey for the National Skills Coalition (NSC), it is clear that **voters strongly support using federal money to train contact tracers.** However, there is still communication that needs to be done to educate voters on what contact tracing is, as only about a quarter are very familiar with the practice. At this point, we are also not certain "contact tracers" is the best name or framing of what they do for voters and would suggest additional research on this framing from other groups.

With a little information, voters are confident that contact tracers play a crucial role in getting the economy back on track by reducing the spread of COVID-19.

- **Voters support hiring and training contact tracers right now to fight COVID-19.** This includes support for:

Support for Proposals Related to Contact Tracing		
	Total Support	*Total oppose*
Spending federal money to train people who have lost their job to be contact tracers	**67%**	21%
Spending federal money to hire contact tracers that reflect and are from the communities that have been hardest hit	**64%**	24%
Spending federal money to hire contact tracers	**57%**	29%

  - Voters who have had economic pain from COVID-19 are most likely (77%) to support training people who have lost their job.
  - African American (71%), Hispanic or Latino (67%), and Asian American voters (72%) were especially supportive of requiring contact tracers to be trained and hired from communities that have been hardest hit.

- **Voters' main reason for supporting contact tracers: to get the economy moving again by reducing COVID.** A strong plurality (42%) of voters chose, "reducing the spread of the virus is the best way to get the economy back on track" as the best reason to support the creation of a contact tracer workforce while the next closest of the five options we tested received only 11%. This option was consistently chosen as the best

reason across nearly every demographic subgroup in our poll, including age, gender, race, education, Census region, and political affiliation.

- **Just 27% of likely voters are very familiar with the term contact tracing at this point,** with an additional 36% saying they are somewhat familiar. Voters need an explanation of what they will do and how they will reduce the spread of coronavirus, and it's possible a different phrase or term would drive support for these policies even higher.

- **There is also majority support (51%) for long-term investment in training contact tracing workers,** including above average support from African American (62%) and Hispanic or Latino (73%) voters. This proposal also received significantly more support from some more traditionally conservative leaning groups like men under 50 (63%) and those with a high school education or less (62%) in addition to Democrats (67%).

  > *"Spending federal money to train contact tracers for long-term employment once they aren't needed after this current crisis" – 51% support / 34% oppose*

This memo is based on the results of a nationwide online survey of N=800 likely 2020 general election voters, conducted by ALG Research between May 21-25, 2020. As the survey was conducted online, all the respondents have access to the Internet via a computer or a smartphone. Because the survey was conducted online, there is no calculated margin of error.