

WINNING THE BATTLE AGAINST COVID-19



HOLDING DOWN THE HOME

Managing Economic Hardship



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The Economic Impact of COVID-19

Black and Hispanic workers face much more economic insecurity from COVID-19 than their white and Asian counterparts. The loss of employment plus underlying structural factors like occupational segregation, discrimination and less relative wealth continues to demonstrate how COVID-19 disproportionately affects people of color.

- The unemployment rate jumped in April to a level not seen since the 1930s and still stood at 6.4% in November. Some 10.3% of Black workers and 8.4% of Latino workers were unemployed in October, compared to 5.9% of white workers.¹
- 49 percent of Black adults & 47 percent of Latino adults reported it was somewhat or very difficult to pay usual household expenses, nearly twice the rate among white adults (28 percent).
- Approximately 40% of African-American Households and 49% of Hispanics have experienced a reduction in income due to Covid-19 (lay-offs, reduced wages, furloughs, job loss)² and payroll employment is still roughly 10 million jobs below its level in February.³
- Hispanic women in the US now have the highest unemployment rate of Black and White groups (20%). The unemployment rate for Black women is 16%.⁴
- Unemployment rates for Black Youth is almost 2x as high as it was at this time last year (20.3% Youth Unemployment Rate-national)⁵
- African Americans represent 20% of the lowest-paying, highest contact essential service workforce in America. This segment has also been impacted more severely by COVID-19, with higher case rates, hospitalizations and virus-related complications.⁶
- There are an estimated <u>375,000 undocumented immigrants</u> in GA who are uneligible and lack health insurance coverage. They cannot claim unemployment benefits or stimulus checks.⁷

Understanding Government-Funded Assistance

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act, is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Unemployment benefits were among some of the specific needs addressed by the bill and CARES Act provisions were essential to address the <u>inadequacies of current state UI programs</u>, including

⁵ Economic Fallout from COVID 19 COntinues to Hit Lower Income Americans the Hardest. Pew Social Trends. September 2020

Atlanta Journal Constitution. Immigrants Change Ways Amid Threatened Deportation Crackdown. July 2019.



¹ https://www.bls.gov/

² Economic Fallout from COVID 19 COntinues to Hit Lower Income Americans the Hardest. Pew Social Trends. September 2020

³ https://www.bls.gov/

⁴ ihid

⁶Economic Policy Institute. Black workers face two of the most lethal preexisting conditions for coronavirus—racism and economic inequality



low benefit levels, short duration of assistance despite a prolonged economic downturn, and outdated and overly restrictive eligibility requirements.

- The CARES Act provided a booster fund -- adding up to \$600 extra per week -- while also extending states' unemployment benefits to a maximum of 39 weeks instead of the typical 26 weeks but that expired in July.
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or PUA, provides unemployment benefits for up to 39 weeks to individuals who are
 - o self-employed, gig workers,
 - 1099 independent contractors,
 - o employees of churches,
 - o employees of non-profits, or
 - o those with limited work history who do not qualify for state unemployment benefits.

These individuals must be determined not to be eligible to receive state benefits before being evaluated for federal PUA benefits.

- The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, or PEUC, provides an extension to regular Unemployment Insurance benefits. This extension adds 13 weeks of benefits to the end of regular unemployment benefits for those who are eligible. This means claimants may collect unemployment benefits for a longer period of time than under normal circumstances.
 - Claimants are potentially eligible if they have been unemployed between March 29 through December 26, 2020 and have exhausted regular state benefits after July 6, 2019. Individuals must be ineligible for state or federal benefits and able and available to work.
- <u>LWA Lost Wages Assistance Program</u> LWA is a program that receives funding from the Federal Emergency Management Administration's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund. LWA will allow distribution of an additional \$300 weekly supplement to eligible individuals receiving UI benefits from state and federal unemployment insurance programs.
 - The program applies to the weeks ending Aug. 1, Aug. 8, Aug. 15, Aug. 22, Aug. 29, and Sept. 5. If a claimant received a payment for any of those weeks and had a weekly benefit amount of at least \$100, he/she will receive a \$300 payment for that week.
 - To check eligibility, claimants should visit their My UI portal
- State Extended Benefits, or SEB, is an extension of benefits that occurs when a state meets
 the unemployment rate threshold for a designated period. Georgia became eligible to pay SEB
 May 10, 2020. However, the first payable week ending date (WED) was July 4, 2020. As of July
 5, 2020, Georgia began a high unemployment period in the Extended Benefits program
 increasing the maximum potential entitlement for claimants to 20 weeks and or until week-ending
 December 26, 2020 for individual claims and December 30, 2020 for employer filed claims,
 whichever comes first.
 - On October 11, due to a decrease in the unemployment rate, Ga will begin a low unemployment period and decrease the maximum potential entitlement for claimants





back to 13 weeks or until week-ending December 26, 2020 for individual claims and December 30, 2020 for employer filed claims, whichever comes first.

To qualify for SEB, individuals must have:

- Exhausted all rights to regular UI under state law;
- Ineligibility for regular UI in another state or Canada;
- Established a qualifying UI claim (with respect to the regular UI claim that exhausted);
- Exhausted PEUC
- No disqualifications preventing SEB eligibility;
- At least one week in the benefit year that begins on or after May 10, 2020, beginning of the SEB eligibility period.

Know Your Worker's Rights

We are still seeing much higher rates of COVID-19 infection in communities of color, and this has unique implications for these vulnerable populations. The majority of jobs lost in the crisis have been in industries that pay low average wages, with the lowest-paying industries accounting for 30 percent of all jobs but 53 percent of the jobs lost from February to November, the latest month of Labor Department employment data. Below is an overview of policies put in place to help mitigate the impact of unfair policies in the work-place.

Issues

- African Americans and Hispanics are more likely to take mass transit to work and are over-represented in jobs considered "essential" which means they are often at higher risk for infection.
- They are also at higher risk of lost wages due to sickness. And if they DO get sick, some still report to work because they simply can't afford to stay home.

Policies

- PAID SICK LEAVE The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA or Act)
 requires certain employers to provide employees with paid sick leave or expanded family
 and medical leave for reasons related to COVID-19 infection, caregiving, or childcare
 needs. These provisions will apply from the effective date through December 31, 2020.
 - Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay where the employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis: or
 - Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay because the employee is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for an individual subject to quarantine (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), or to care for a child (under 18 years of age) whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19, and/or the employee is





- experiencing a substantially similar condition as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Labor; and
- Up to an additional 10 weeks of paid expanded family and medical leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay where an employee, who has been employed for at least 30 calendar days, is unable to work due to a bona fide need for leave to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.
- Determine eligibility for FFCRA

Job Training & Employment Assistance

CAREER REBOOT FULTON DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAM

Fulton County in partnership with Select Fulton, Goodwill of North Georgia, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber are offering a **FREE digital literacy and computer skills training program** for all Fulton County residents who have been impacted by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 public health crisis. The program provides training and certifications from basic computer skills to Microsoft Office training and Google G-suite training. Additionally, the program offers career services such as resume writing and review, career counseling, and employment connections.

How to Get Connected

Residents can access online or in-person courses in digital literacy. Anyone with an internet connection, computer or mobile device can access virtual courses or can visit one of Goodwill of North Georgia's Career Centers to access courses. Career ReBoot Fulton also offers training tracks and will provide career coaching throughout the program.

To enroll in Career ReBoot Fulton, go to careerconnector.org; email careerservices@ging.org; call 844.344.WORK (9675); or visit one of Goodwill of North Georgia's Career Centers.

Additional Resources

Select Fulton

Social Security Administration

Tax Relief

Worksource Fulton Virtual One Stop

MLK Community Resource Collaborative

Atlanta Works

Georgia Department of Labor

Fannie Mae

Federal Finance Housing Agency

Freddie Mac

The Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Veterans Affairs

Atlanta North Georgia Labor Council





Quality Care for Children

Enable GA

City of Refuge

Westside Works

National Pan-Hellenic Council of Greater Atlanta

Delta Sigma Theta Atlanta

Alpha Kappa Alpha Atlanta

Phi Beta Sigma Atlanta

Kappa Alpha Psi Atlanta

Omega Psi Phi Atlanta

Action Ministries

Enon Baptist Church

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Passion City Church

Roswell UMC

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Impact Church

Simpson Street Church of Christ

MLK Sr. Community Resources provided by Ebenezer Baptist Church

Relief From Food Insecurity

Regardless of eligibility, the <u>FCS FoodSTop Back To School Meal Distribution program</u> is providing FREE breakfast/lunch meals to all children under the age of 18 or under the age of 21 if they have special needs.

• 43% of Fulton Co. students qualify for free/reduced lunch and nearly 3/4 of students in ATL Public schools are eligible. Fulton Co. and Atlanta Public schools are continuing its free/reduced lunch program remotely, providing sites to families for pick-up and delivery.

Fulton Co and Food Pantries provide FREE groceries to Fulton Co. residents.

- MUST Ministries normally serves about 33K residents in one year. Since mid-March, the program
 has fed over 120k people. Food assistance programs throughout Fulton County have increased
 their provisions to meet the need of the effects of the pandemic, providing food pantries, waivers
 and care packages to people throughout the community.
- Fulton Co. food pantry partner organizations are also looking for DONORS, as they are running low on supplies due to the increased demand.

Fulton Co. offers a <u>FREE nutritional counseling program</u> for individuals who want to understand and improve their diet and approach to fitness.

 The areas hardest hit by COVID-19 have limited access to grocery stores that provide affordable, nutritional meals. As a result, Black communities are 1.3x more likely to be obese than their counterparts. People who are overweight are more likely to suffer from high blood pressure, high





levels of blood fats, diabetes and LDL cholesterol – all risk factors for COVID-19, heart disease and stroke.

- Poverty-stricken areas like East Point, metro Atlanta and Southwest Atlanta report less proximity to open spaces like parks and recreational centers than the rest of the city.
- East Point, metro Atlanta, Southwest Atlanta and Fairburn are areas in Fulton Co. that have high COVID-19 infection rates and are experiencing a high uninsurance rate & are low-income (HHI <\$57K).
- Of the ~1.03m Fulton Co. residents who live at or below the federal poverty line, 44% of them are African American. 7% are Hispanic.

Food Banks & Pantry Assistance

AGAPE/Atlanta Public Schools Food Distribution

Enon Baptist Church

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Caring Works, Inc.

City of Refuge

Food Lifeline

HOSA Feed the Hungry and Homeless

Mary Hall Freedom House

Meal Bridge

Meals on Wheels

Nicolas House

Our House

Second Helpings- Rapid Response Volunteer

Fulton Co STARline

Palmetto Community Food Pantry

Open Hand Atlanta

Good R

Atlanta Community Food Bank

Meals on Wheels Atlanta

Sunshine Brotherhood Community Center

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Passion City Church

Peoplestown Revitalization Corp

Roswell United Methodist Church (Job Networking Ministry)

Wavfield Foods Inc

YMCA Andrew/ Walter Young

Quality Living Services Inc

Veterans Empowerment Organization

Urban League of Greater ATL





Food Banks & Economic Assistance

Community Assistance Center

Andrew P. Stewart Center

Concerned Black Clergy of Metro Atlanta Inc

Enable GA

Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority

Homestretch

Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability

Making a Way Housing

Midtown Assistance Center

North Fulton Community Charities

Renew Atlanta Corporation

StarHouse

Georgia Council on Aging Inc

True Worship Outreach

<u>Urban League of Greater Atlanta</u>

Preventing Homelessness and Providing Housing Relief in Fulton Co.

Mass evictions risks further spread of COVID-19. Displaced families will be forced to double-up with other households, seek refuge in crowded shelters, or find themselves living outside.

- COVID-19 spreads rapidly in group quarters, where residents live in close contact, share bathrooms and eat together.
- With nearly <u>15% of households with children</u> living in high-cost metro areas are overcrowded, it is difficult for these individuals to socially distance themselves

63% of renter households are unable to pay rent and are risk displacement. The Recession resulting from COVID-19 related fallouts are causing many people to fall behind on their mortgages and rent-displacing many families during a pandemic

- Evictions result in social stigmas and physical/mental health tolls. It also affects your credit and goes on the record, making it extremely difficult to find another place to live.
- Eviction often sets off a chain of <u>devastating hardships</u>, including <u>physical and mental health</u> <u>issues</u>, chronic joblessness, <u>financial loss</u>, and homelessness.

A lack of statewide protections against eviction is making women especially vulnerable to their housing security and safety.

- There is an increase in reports of landlords sexually harassing tenants who are unable to pay rent
- Domestic violence survivors face greater vulnerability if eviction is a possibility because lack of safe and stable housing is one of the primary barriers they face when trying to escape abusive relationships





The City of Atlanta's <u>COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program</u> rental assistance program helps cover past due rent, utilities, and move-in deposits as a result of impending evictions.

Participants who qualify must meet the income requirements, be a resident of Atlanta, prove a
recent loss of income (job loss, furlough, reduced work hours to care for child(ren) for COVID-19
related reasons, and not be receiving a rental subsidy from any other program.

Know your Rights to Prevent Eviction

For renters who are facing eviction, the CDC issued a <u>Public Health Service Act</u> in September 2020, temporarily halting residential evictions across the country to prevent further spread of COVID-19. Applicable to <u>Fulton Co. residents</u>, this is in effect through Dec 31,2020.

- Tenants who have lost substantial income, expect to make no more than \$99K and/or an eviction likely to force them into homelessness can provide their landlord with a signed testimony, barring their eviction if they are unable to pay rent and meet several requirements .Tenants can present this declaration to landlords at any time, even if filings and eviction proceedings are already underway.
- It does not forgive rent. Tenants are still required to follow all the terms of the lease and pay rent, even if they cannot pay all of it right away. Landlords are also able to still charge fees, penalties and interest if their tenant cannot pay rent during the moratorium. Landlords can still evict tenants for property destruction, alleged criminal activity and other reasons.

The City of Atlanta has continued to extend its <u>residential Executive Orders</u>, refraining properties subsidized by governmental and quasi-governmental agencies from filing and evicting its tenants. This is in effect through Oct. 31.

 The same executive order is refraining the Department of Watershed Management from taking any action that would result in the termination of water services to any DWM customer due to non-payments

Homelessness is increasing every day at a frightening rate, particularly in North Fulton amongst Hispanic families. Due to circumstances like language barriers or immigration status, there may be hesitation on their part to seek care and services.

Homeless Outreach Resources

Covenant House GA

Solomon's Temple Foundation

The Drake House

United Way of Greater Atlanta's DIY Shoebox Project

HOPE Atlanta

Veterans Empowerment Organization

North Fulton Community Charities

Fulton County (DBHDD) Homeless Engagement Team

Atlanta Mission: My Sister's House





Our House

Agape Remah Christian Ministries

Homestretch

Hope Atlanta

Action Ministries

Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Inc.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Passion City Church

True Worship Christian Fellowship Church

InTown Collaborative Ministries

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

MLK Sr. Community Resources provided by Ebenezer Baptist Church

Cathedral of Faith

Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Flipper Temple AME

Muhammad Mosque

St. Paul of the Christ

Additional Care and Resources

Below is the list of Additional organizations and partners who are committed to our community.

Mental & Behavioral Health Services

Fulton Co. Behavioral Health Services

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Georgia Crisis & Access Line

Fulton Co. Behavioral Health Adult Services

Fulton County DUI Treatment Court Program

Atlanta/Fulton County Pre-Arrest Diversion Initiative

Georgia COVID-19 Emotional Support Line

Families First

The Families Health Center of GA

Rivers Edge (Macon)

Anchor Hospital

Chris 180

Heaven's Cove

Action Ministries

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Passion City Church

Roswell UMC

Good Samaritan Center





Impact Church

MLK Sr. Community Resources provided by Ebenezer Baptist Church

Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church

Flipper Temple AME

Elizabeth Baptist Church

Youth Outreach

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta

Digital Art Acquisition Initiative

Andrew P. Stewart Center

The Miracle League

StarHouse

YMCA Andrew/ Walter Young

Mind Bubble

Fulton Co. Kids Zone

Fulton Co. Arts and Culture

Youth Enhancement Services

Community Council of Metro Atlanta

Fulton Co. 4-H

Fulton Co. Youth Commission

Youth Gamechangers

Maynard Jackson Youth Foundation

Live Health and Thrive Youth Foundation

Create Your Dreams

National Urban Coalition of Unity and Peace

Achieve Atlanta

Children's Restoration Network

Foster Care Support Foundation

AT Promise Center

Southwest Ecumenical Emergency Assistance Center (SWEEAC)

100 Black Men

The Links

Action Ministries

Enon Baptist Church

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Passion City Church

Roswell UMC

Impact Church

MLK Sr. Community Resources provided by Ebenezer Baptist Church

Cathedral of Faith

Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church

Grace Community Fellowship Church

Simpson Street Church of Christ





Elizabeth Baptist Church

St. Paul of the Christ

Child Care Resources

North Fulton Children's Development Association

Fulton Co's Quality Care for Children

Senior Services

Senior Services North Fulton

The Council on Aging

Division of Aging- Mental Health

Quality Living Services

Volunteer Surge- Community Health Workers

Senior Services North Fulton

South Fulton Senior Services

Fulton Co. Senior Services

Enon Baptist Church

Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Inc.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Roswell UMC

Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta

Noonday Association

MLK Sr. Community Resources provided by Ebenezer Baptist Church

Cathedral of Faith

Berean Seventh Day Adventist Church

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church

Flipper Temple AME

Atlanta West End Seventh Day Adventist

Hispanic & Latino Community Organizations

Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Community Assistance Center

Latino American Organization

AGAPE Youth and Family Center

Caminar Latino

GALEO

La Amistad Inc

Latino Community Fund

St. Paul of the Christ

Academic Resources





Fulton County Schools

Fulton Virtual School

Fulton Co. School Nutrition FoodStop

Fulton County Program for the Education of Children and Youth in Transition

Fulton County Universal Remote Learning

Fulton County Important Messages, Press Updates, Messages

Fulton County COVID-19 Cases in Fulton County Schools

Comcast Internet Essentials Program

Xfinity Hotspots

Atlanta Public Schools

Atlanta Public Schools Homeless Education Program

USDA Seamless Summer Option

Get our Kids Connected

Adult Education Center

Atlanta Public Schools COVID-19 Related Updates

Action Ministries

Passion City Church

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church

Cathedral of Faith

Simpson Street Church of Christ

Differently-Abled Assistance

Action Ministries

Enon Baptist Church

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Transition Services (Prison/Health)

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Roswell UMC

Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta

MLK Sr. Community Resources provided by Ebenezer Baptist Church

Elizabeth Baptist Church

Atlanta West End Seventh Day Adventist

Grief Assistance

Passion City Church

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Roswell UMC

St. Paul of the Christ

Elizabeth Baptist Church

