IMPACTS OF COVID-19 SURVEY ON HOUSEHOLDS IN SOUTHEASTERN IDAHO
BACKGROUND

The United Ways across Idaho have collaborated on a survey to better understand the impacts of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic on families across Idaho. Local data from this survey will be used to inform how the United Ways in each region of Idaho and their partners can best support Idaho ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families throughout a long term recovery period.

Across the state of Idaho, 941 responses were received. In Southeastern Idaho, the United Way of Southeastern Idaho received 359 responses from households covering the 7 county service area of the United Way of Southeastern Idaho which are Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida, and Power counties. There was a robust response to this survey and responses represent all income.

DATA DISAGGREGATION

The United Way of Southeastern Idaho has disaggregated the responses from Southeastern Idaho and will present the results in the following ways:

1. All SE Idaho responses (359 responses)
2. SE Idaho households reporting less than $50,000 in household income in 2019 (133 responses)
3. SE Idaho households identifying as being a part of a racial or ethnic minority group (66 responses)

In the narrative below, households making less than $50,000 annually will be referred to as ALICE households which is the target demographic of United Way of SE Idaho’s mission and programs. For more information and to see the 2020 ALICE report, visit: www.unitedwaysei.org/advocacy.
1. The survey sample corresponds closely with US Census data that estimates that around 90% of our region identifies as white only. The other ethnicities also correspond very closely with US Census data.

2. The percentage of respondents that identified as having a household income less than $50,000 annually is 37.2 percent corresponding closely with our most recent ALICE report estimates for SE Idaho (42 percent below ALICE threshold which equates to an annual household income of less than $60,240 for two adults with two young children in childcare).

3. Households of all income levels participated in this survey and the household income levels across the 359 SE Idaho respondents.
**COMMUNITY RESOURCE GAPS & 211 HELP LINE**

**TAKEAWAYS**

1. SE Idahoans across all income levels identified access to mental health care as the #1 community resource gap.

2. SE Idahoans identified finding affordable housing as the #2 community resource gap.

3. Other high priority community resource gaps that were identified included food assistance and services for senior citizens as well as after school programs (especially K-8).

**A CALL TO ACTION**

1. The United Way of SE Idaho will be focusing on four key impact areas during this recovery phase: 1) Access to mental health and healthcare; 2) Housing stability and shelter; 3) Food insecurity (especially for school-aged children and seniors); 4) Cradle to Career Opportunity Gap (e.g. ensuring all students start school ready and have every chance for life success)

2. Nonprofits, philanthropists, and corporate foundations should focus on investing dollars in strengthening our region's access to mental health care, housing stability and shelter, food security, and educational programs that improve student outcomes.

3. More investment is needed by the State of Idaho and the Department of Health and Welfare in the 211 program to ensure that it is a timely, accurate, and well-advertised local resource for residents in need.

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**WHAT COMMUNITY RESOURCE GAPS CURRENTLY EXIST IN YOUR OPINION?**

![Community Resource Gaps Chart]

- **Racial and Ethnic Minorities**
- **Household Income Less than $50k**
- **All SE Idaho**
SINCE MARCH 1, 2020, HAS SOMEONE IN YOUR HOME CALLED OR TEXTED 211 FOR INFORMATION OR HELP?

HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL STABILITY AND NEEDS

TAKEAWAYS

1. ALICE families applied for unemployment at almost twice the rate as the general SE Idaho population.

2. ALICE households reported that what they most needed during the pandemic was assistance paying rent/mortgage and other essential bills.

3. Three fifths of SE Idahoans experienced some form of financial need during the pandemic. 40.5% of SE Idahoans reporting having no financial needs as a result of the crisis, meaning 59.5% of SE Idahoans reported some level of financial need.

4. The majority of ALICE households (69.8%) had one month or less of savings on hand to pay bills. 30.8 percent of ALICE families had one week or less of savings on hand.

5. Many ALICE families turned to debt to make up for lost wages - Nearly 1 in 4 (23.3%) increased their balance on a credit card.

6. Nearly 1 in 5 (18.8%) of ALICE households have relied on a food bank to meet essential needs during the pandemic. In Bannock County alone this would equate to around 2,500 households using food pantries during the pandemic.

A CALL TO ACTION

Support the United Way of SE Idaho Community Fund which will be primarily focused on making grant investments in the areas of: 1) Housing stability and shelter; 2) Food insecurity; 3) Access to mental health and health care; and 4) Cradle to Career Opportunity Gap (e.g. ensuring all students start school ready and have every chance for life success)

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAD AT LEAST ONE PERSON WHO EXPERIENCED UNEMPLOYMENT OR HAD THEIR WORK HOURS REDUCED
### What Types of Jobs Did People in Your Household Do Prior to the Pandemic?

- **Other**: 13.6% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 24.81% All SE Idaho, 11.8% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Technology**: 4.5% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 17.8% All SE Idaho, 4.2% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Nonprofit**: 1.5% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 8.1% All SE Idaho, 1.5% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Mining or natural resource extraction**: 0.6% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 0.5% All SE Idaho, 0.6% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing**: 9.02% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 10.6% All SE Idaho, 9.0% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Government**: 4.5% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 9.1% All SE Idaho, 4.5% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Leisure, hospitality, and food service**: 12.1% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 23.9% All SE Idaho, 12.2% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Health care, day care, and social assistance**: 18.2% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 24.8% All SE Idaho, 18.2% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Education**: 17.7% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 23.7% All SE Idaho, 17.7% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Business management, administrative, and professional services**: 19.5% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 21.2% All SE Idaho, 19.5% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Finance, insurance, and real estate**: 4.5% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 11.1% All SE Idaho, 4.5% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Media and publishing**: 4.5% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 11.3% All SE Idaho, 4.5% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Delivery, transportation, and warehousing**: 3.6% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 9.7% All SE Idaho, 3.6% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Retail/wholesale sales**: 6.02% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 8.9% All SE Idaho, 6.02% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Utilities**: 0.8% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 1.5% All SE Idaho, 0.8% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Manufacturing (including oil and Chemical)**: 6.1% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 9.1% All SE Idaho, 6.1% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Construction**: 9.1% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 9.5% All SE Idaho, 9.1% Household Income Less than $50k

### What Is Most Important to Your Household’s Finances at This Time?

- **Technology to assist with remote working and learning**: 13.6% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 18.0% All SE Idaho, 13.6% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Reinstatement of your job**: 9.2% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 10.8% All SE Idaho, 9.2% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Other (please specify)**: 7.8% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 10.8% All SE Idaho, 7.8% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Nothing, we have no needs.**: 30.0% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 40.5% All SE Idaho, 30.0% Household Income Less than $50k
- **New job opportunity for you or another adult in the household**: 10.0% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 10.0% All SE Idaho, 10.0% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Health insurance coverage**: 7.7% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 10.8% All SE Idaho, 7.7% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Elimination of health care bills regarding COVID-19**: 7.7% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 10.8% All SE Idaho, 7.7% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Assistance paying rent/mortgage**: 11.7% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 20.0% All SE Idaho, 11.7% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Assistance paying other bills**: 11.4% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 20.0% All SE Idaho, 11.4% Household Income Less than $50k
- **Access to child care**: 13.1% Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 23.7% All SE Idaho, 13.1% Household Income Less than $50k
IMPACT OF ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENT (AKA STIMULUS CHECKS)

**TAKEAWAYS**

1. Close to 90% of SE Idahoans will/did receive a stimulus check, a slightly higher rate that the US Census Bureau's "Household Pulse Survey" which reported about 85.5% of American households received a stimulus check (https://www.census.gov/)

2. Over half of ALICE households used their stimulus checks to pay for essential bills such as housing, food, and utilities.

3. The stimulus payments also provided a valuable safety net for the future as we enter uncertain economic times: Nearly 2 in 5 (39.8%) of all SE Idahoans added to their savings.
A CALL TO ACTION

1. State agencies, nonprofits, and other advocates should closely track and monitor needs and trends related to rental/utility/housing assistance.
2. Support nonprofits financially that can pivot quickly to help meet basic community needs through rental/utility assistance, food, and other basic needs.
3. Refer households that are eligible to the Idaho Housing Preservation Program for Renters and Landlords: A statewide fund available to help with rental and utility payments: https://www.unitedwaysei.org/resources-southeastern-idaho#housing

DID YOU RECEIVE A STIMULUS CHECK FROM THE GOVERNMENT?

IF YOU RECEIVED A CHECK FROM THE GOVERNMENT, HOW DID YOU/DO YOU PLAN TO SPEND THE MONEY?

- Other
- Donated or gave away the money
- Put in savings
- Pay off debt/credit card
- Pay for utilities
- Buy food
- Pay rent or mortgage
**IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CHILDCARE**

**TAKEAWAYS**

1. 45.2% of ALICE households who needed childcare had their work hours negatively impacted, reduced, or eliminated during the pandemic due to child care issues compared to only 32.9 percent of all SE Idahoans who needed childcare.

2. Access to child care during the pandemic disproportionately affected ALICE households as nearly twice as many of these households had to leave the workforce completely due to child care access issues compared to all of SE Idaho.

**A CALL TO ACTION**

A strong child care system is integral and essential to the economic, social, and financial well-being for SE Idahoans. A failure in this system can trigger severe economic consequences for both workers and businesses. A strong public/private investment is needed to sustain these systems through the crisis, leading to positive economic outcomes as well as developmental outcomes for children.

**PRIOR TO THE PANDEMIC, DID YOU USUALLY NEED CHILD CARE WHEN YOU WORKED?**

- Yes, I paid for child care in my home: 0.0% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 0.8% (Household Income Less than $50k), 0.6% (All SE Idaho)
- Yes, I paid for family child care: 9.1% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 3.3% (Household Income Less than $50k), 7.3% (All SE Idaho)
- Yes, I paid for a child care center: 9.1% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 6.0% (Household Income Less than $50k), 7.8% (All SE Idaho)
- Yes, I sent my child(ren) to Head Start or Early Head Start: 1.5% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 12.0% (All SE Idaho)
- Yes, I sent my child to a school based program: 3.0% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 6.0% (Household Income Less than $50k), 3.9% (All SE Idaho)
- Yes, I left my child with a friend or relative: 3.0% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 7.5% (Household Income Less than $50k), 5.8% (All SE Idaho)
- Other: 1.7% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 2.3% (Household Income Less than $50k), 1.5% (All SE Idaho)
- No: 74.4% (Racial and Ethnic Minorities), 77.3% (Household Income Less than $50k), 79.1% (All SE Idaho)
Since March 1, 2020, how has your child care arrangement impacted your income?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>All SE Idaho</th>
<th>Household Income Less than $50k</th>
<th>Racial and Ethnic Minorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working similar hours with same child care arrangement</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer able to work due to child care issues (like access or affordability)</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working reduced hours due to child care issues (like access or affordability)</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working similar hours with new in-home child care (self, household member)</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is the community most concerned about as we aim to recover?

Takeaways

1. SE Idahoans across all income levels are MOST concerned about themselves or a loved one contracting COVID-19.

2. SE Idahoans are also concerned about the economic health of their community.

A Call to Action

1. The majority of SE Idahoans identify their health and safety regarding COVID-19 as a top concern. Businesses and individuals should follow local public health department guidelines to slow the spread and ensure that SE Idaho can remain healthy and stay open.

2. As SE Idaho recovers we must re-examine systems and services to ensure that there is equitable access to health care (especially mental health care), affordable housing, basic needs (e.g. food for vulnerable populations), and programs that give low to moderate income children the tools to find educational success and future financial stability.
**WHAT ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD?**

- **Other. Please specify:**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 1.3%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 7.8%
  - All SE Idaho: 7.6%

- **You or a loved one getting COVID-19**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 13.5%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 13.3%
  - All SE Idaho: 13.1%

- **The economic health of my community**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 34.6%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 35.9%
  - All SE Idaho: 35.5%

- **Paying rent/mortgage**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 10.2%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 22.9%
  - All SE Idaho: 22.3%

- **Paying other bills**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 7.9%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 14.2%
  - All SE Idaho: 13.8%

- **Mental health issue (e.g., depression, addiction, anxiety)**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 10.2%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 4.7%
  - All SE Idaho: 4.2%

- **Medical issues other than COVID-19**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 3.1%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 5.3%
  - All SE Idaho: 5.6%

- **Getting food and other things I need**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 2.4%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 3.5%
  - All SE Idaho: 3.3%

- **Children’s well-being, remote learning**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 3.9%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 11.8%
  - All SE Idaho: 11.5%

- **Attending Church or other Social gatherings**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 1.6%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 1.5%
  - All SE Idaho: 1.5%

- **Adequate Child Care**
  - Racial and Ethnic Minorities: 1.6%
  - Household Income Less than $50k: 1.6%
  - All SE Idaho: 1.6%

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