

FORGOTTEN DURING COVID: AN ASSESSMENT OF IMMIGRANT NEEDS IN THE PANDEMIC

*DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR IMMIGRANTS
SUMMER 2020*



COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights



**Jewish
Family
Service**
Moving Forward
Together



ASIAN AMERICANS
**ADVANCING
JUSTICE**
LOS ANGELES



Community Action Board
of Santa Cruz County, Inc.



CARECEN



CALIFORNIA HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES TO END POVERTY



**UFW
FOUNDATION**

PREPARED BY

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Where we are right now

REPORT OVERVIEW



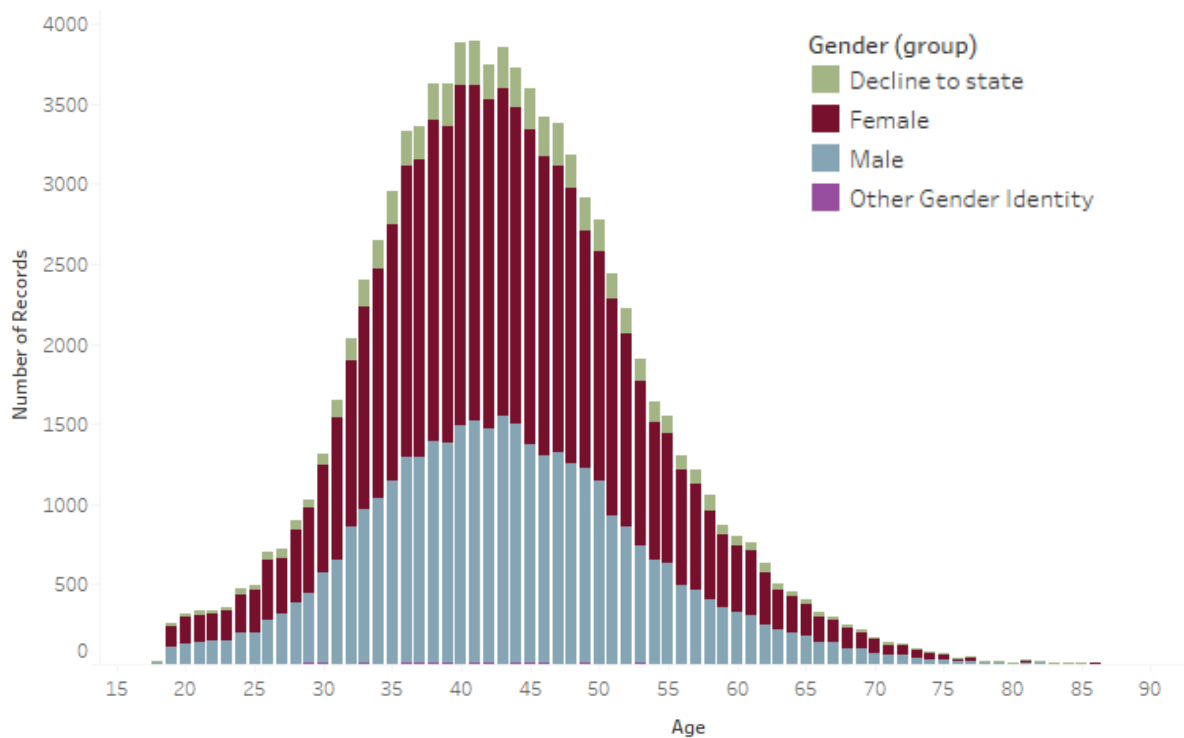
To respond to the COVID-19 health crisis, and to recognize the contributions of undocumented immigrants to its economy, the state of California, again leading the nation in social justice and equity for its people, in May launched an unprecedented assistance program for immigrants affected by the pandemic. With an allocation of \$75 million, the Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants (DRAI) program served more than 150,000 undocumented people, disbursing an estimated \$500 per household in direct aid.

California is home to approximately 10.6 million immigrants (2 million undocumented) who pay nearly \$39 billion (\$2.5 billion for undocumented immigrants) in state and local taxes each year. This report presents the results of statewide data collected by six organizations that qualified applicants and distributed the funds. It presents the various unmet needs reported by the applicants. It also shows how the DRAI aid, while welcome, falls severely short of the amount needed to truly address the urgent needs of the immigrant community. This data set of 91,000 records compiles insights from the largest survey of undocumented immigrants in recent years.

A DIRE PICTURE

FOR WOMEN

Over half of the assistance recipients were women (7% of applicants declined to state their gender). Most of the applicants that were impacted by school closures are women between the ages of 36 to 50.

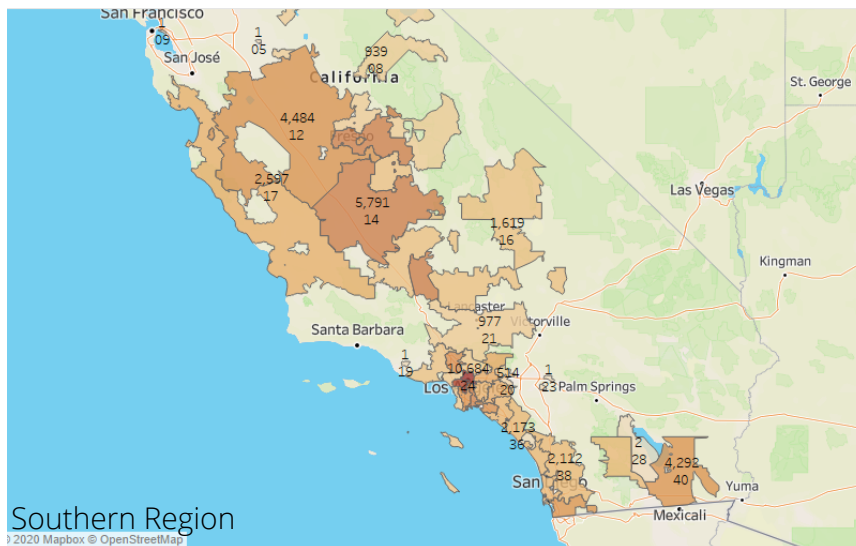
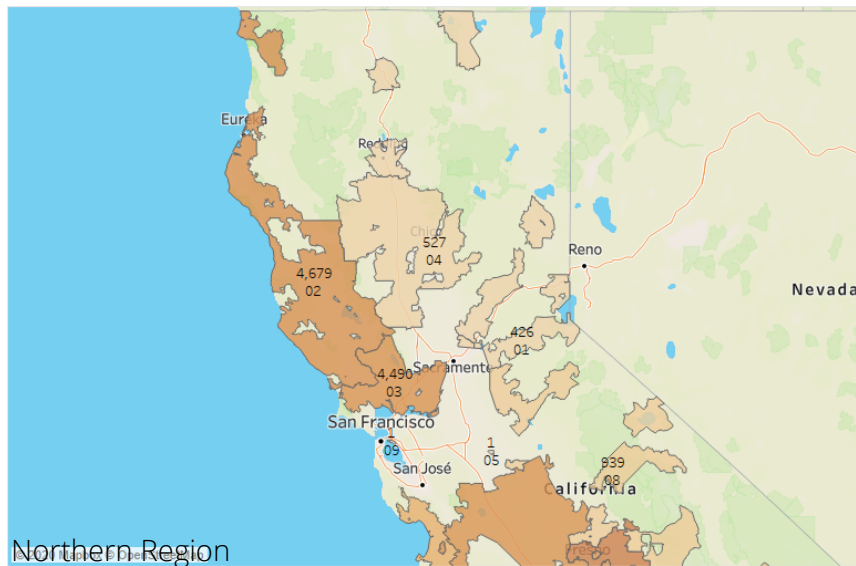


Female	Male	Reason to Apply for Assistance
97%	98%	Reduced Hours
49%	43%	Schools Closures
12%	11%	Underlying Health Conditions
3%	4%	Experiencing Synthoms at time of application
3%	3%	Caregiver of a special needs person / older adult
53%	39%	Proportion of the Universe
48,604	35,965	Total Universe*excludes Decline to State or Other Gender

Preferred Language	Count
Spanish	79205
English	7823
Korean	1893
Thai	797
Mandarin	411
Tagalog	361
Decline to state	139
Vietnamese	88
Mixteco	87
Triqui	62

SENATE DISTRICTS

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS

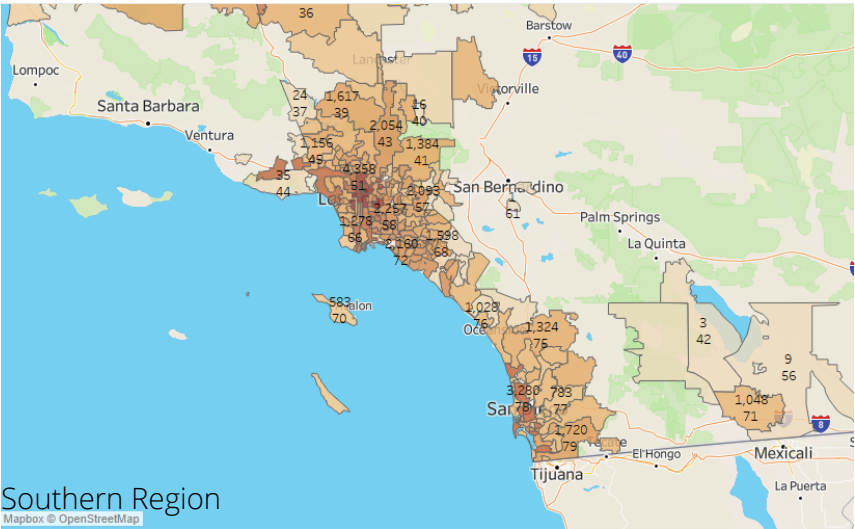
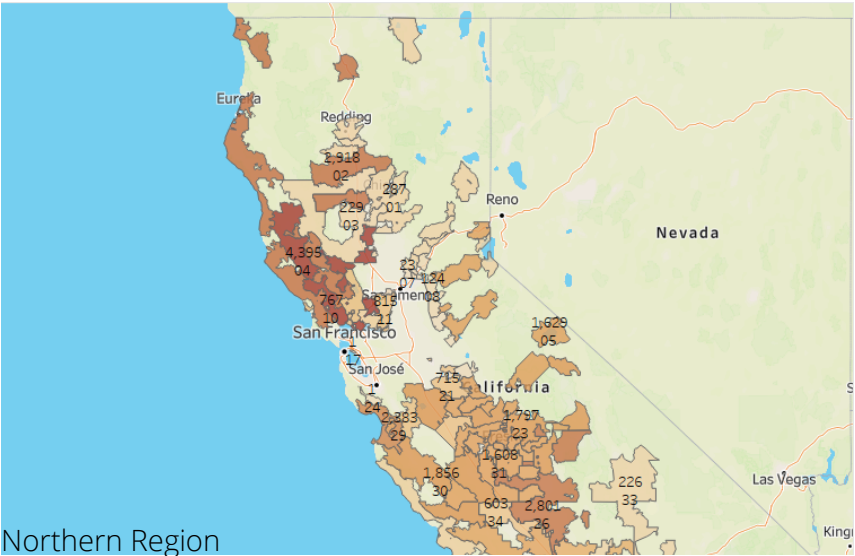


Top 10 Senate Districts by Density of Recipients

Senate District	Recipients
24	10684
30	9193
14	5791
33	5564
18	4740
02	4679
34	4578
03	4490
12	4484
35	4378

STATE ASSEMBLY

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS

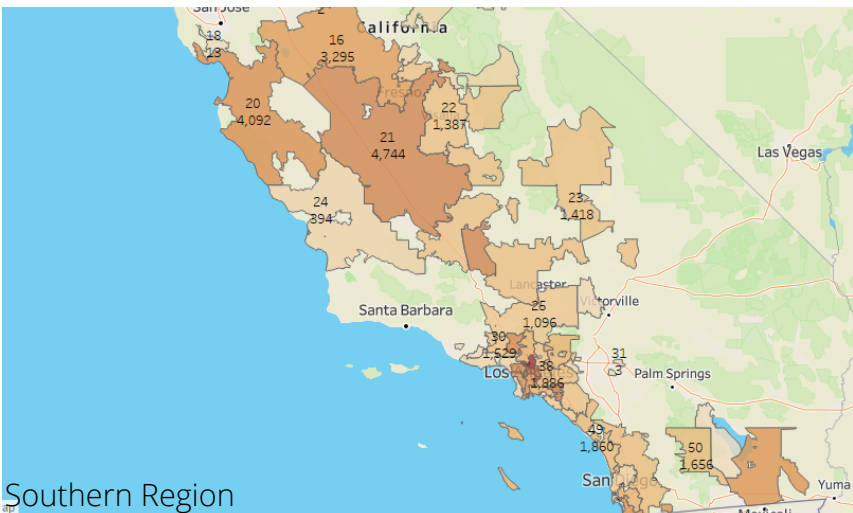
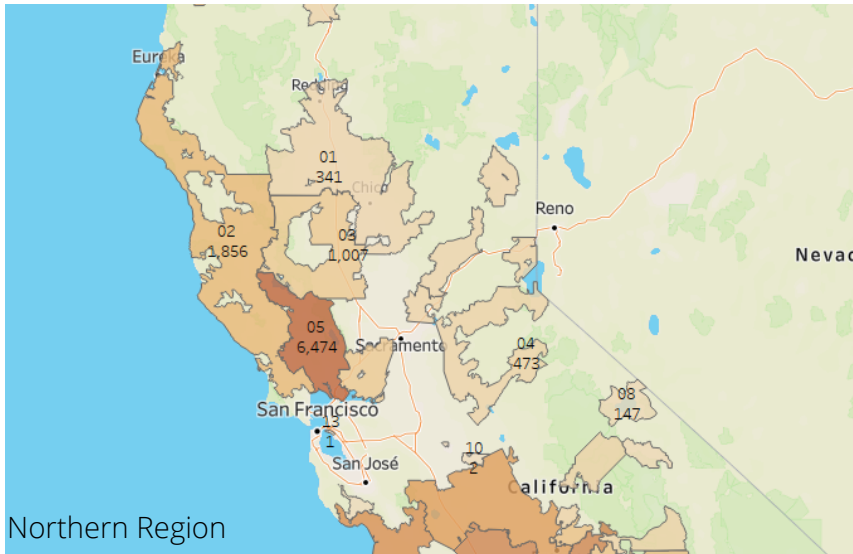


Top 10 State Assemblies by Density of Recipients

State Assembly	Recipients
59	4,615
04	4,395
53	4,386
51	4,358
78	3,280
64	3,219
50	3,171
02	2,918
26	2,801
63	2,664

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS



Top 10 Congressional Districts by Density of Recipients

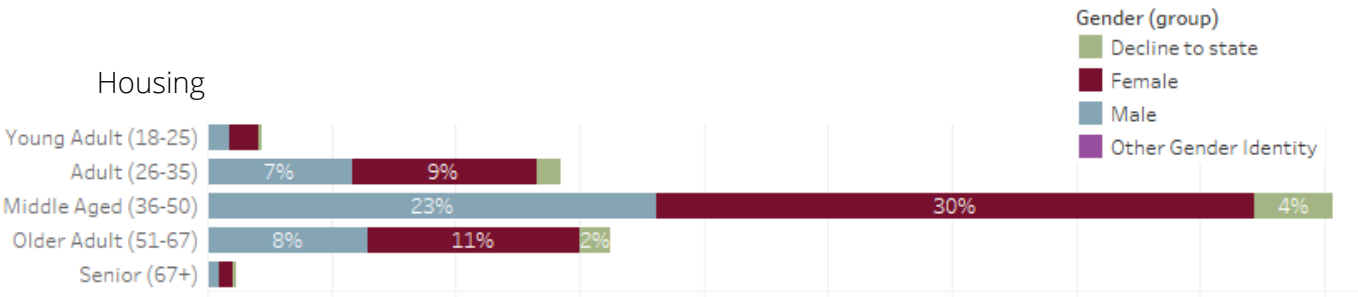
Congressional District	Recipients
34	9,225
05	6,474
40	6,361
46	5,319
21	4,744
29	4,498
37	4,471
20	4,092
44	3,942
43	3,743

AT THE TOP OF UNMET NEEDS

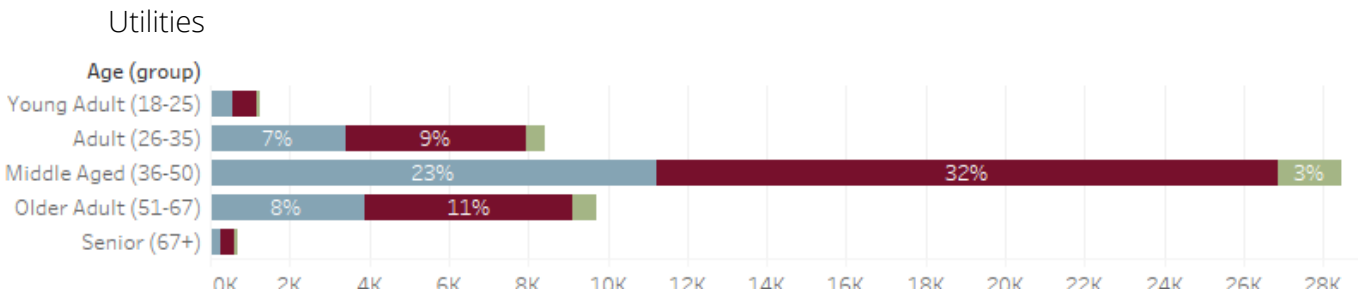
HOUSING

Covering housing expenses is the most pressing need in the face of this crisis for the recipients and the most common unmet need where they want to allocate the assistance.

Experiencing Unmet Need	Type of Need
91,042	Total Universe
87%	Housing
54%	Food
53%	Utilities
13%	Transport
9%	Childcare
27%	Recipient of Calfresh

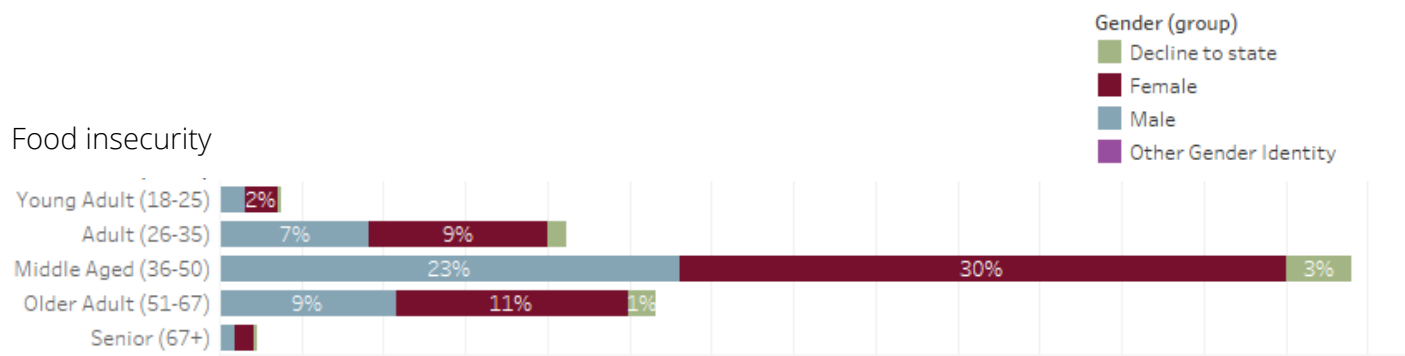


Housing related costs such as **Utilities** is another category of needs where recipients plan to allocate funds.



GROWING CONCERNS INCLUDE FOOD INSECURITY

More than half of the total recipients report unmet needs for food (54%). Of those that have children at home, 53% report that they will use the assistance to secure food.



While health coverage was not captured in the application for DRAI, previous surveys from CHIRLA and from other organizations places health coverage among the immigrant population at around a 69% rate of health coverage.

The health impact of the COVID19 is hard to measure but **at least 3%** of the applicants were experiencing symptoms at the time of application, and at least **1 in 10 suffer underlying health conditions**, which can result in high medical expenses that they may be challenged to cover.

Notes: Total recipients accounted for in this report N=91,042 is a portion of the total recipients for the entire DRAI program sponsored by the State of California via the Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants program. Six participating organizations: CHIRLA, Asian Americans for Justice, California Human Development, CARECEN, Community Action Board of Santa Cruz, Jewish Family Services of San Diego, UFW Foundation. Analysis by: L. Tamburrino, Data Analytics Manager and Evaluation at CHIRLA

\$500 IN DIRECT ASSISTANCE

HOW MUCH CAN IT AFFORD?

Below we present estimate calculations of how far this money can go for a family of four assuming at least one Adult in the household received the assistance. These scenarios take into account an adjusted Consumer Price Index for the region of Los Angeles, however recipients included all regions across the state including higher priced areas.

How much does a two-bedroom apartment costs in Los Angeles?

To narrow down the area of highest impact, we searched in the zip-codes where most applicants live: 90011, 90006 and 95404. A search of un-subsidized and subsidized housing available in October 2020 showed the average rent for a subsidized apartment at \$ \$1,232 and average un-subsidized rent prices hovering between \$2,400 to \$2,600 per month. (1) (2)

\$204

Utilities per month

\$2,400

2-Bedroom Rentall
Unsubsidized

Utilities are pricier in Los Angeles.

As of May 2019 data, the average price for electricity, heating, cooling, water, and garbage for a 915-square-foot apartment in Los Angeles was \$138. The Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that in the past five years, prices paid by Los Angeles area consumers for electricity exceeded the U.S. average by 23%. (3).

Sources:

1. Housing Department City of Los Angeles (<https://hcidla.lacity.org/>)

2. Zillow.com

3. Average Energy Prices, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim – September 2020 (https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/averageenergyprices_losangeles.htm)

GRAB N GO MEALS PROGRAM:

A LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES

According to the department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Food USA Plans Report estimate that for September 2020, a family of 4 in the US would spend \$1339 per month in groceries. Consumer Price Index for Los Angeles rose 4.2% for Food and other items during the past year. In sum, a family of 4 should expect to spend nearly \$1,400 per month or \$46 per day in meals at home. (4)

\$1,400

Groceries per month

10

Additional meals
per week

While \$500 could reasonably cover the meals for approximately 10 days, Grab n' Go programs from LAUSD offer relief to families that depend for meals at a rate of two meals per day during the virtual session in school days. This is a necessary lifeline and using the government estimates, a family of four can save \$75 per week if two children receive meals. School meals can extend the \$500 assistance for two additional days.

Sources:

4. Consumer Price Index Los Angeles 2020 (https://www.bls.gov/regions/west/news-release/consumerpriceindex_losangeles.htm).

KIDS AT HOME

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO SUPPORT ONLINE LEARNING?

45%

Recipients affected
by school closures

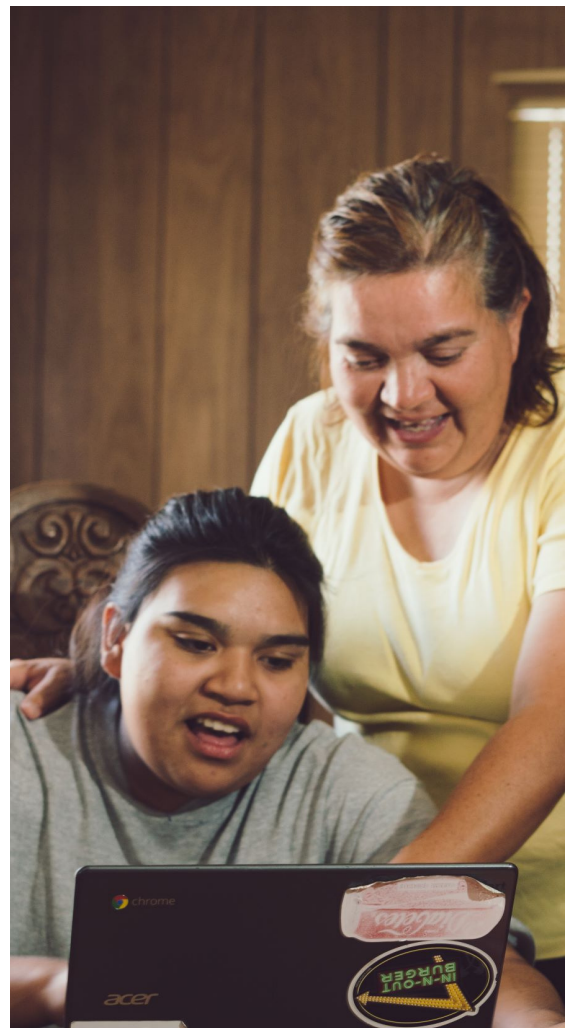
As families experience having kids stay at home for distance learning the face can result in severe financial stress.

Higher Food Consumption. A recent study by NIH with over 3,500 participants reported that 48% gained weight during the pandemic. Mainly related to extended periods of staying at home leading to boredom and food stockpiling. (5).

Internet and Distance Learning Equipment

Fast internet is necessary to video-supported distance learning but according to the 2019 American Community Survey 18% of Hispanics in the Los Angeles region say they don't have consistent access to the internet (6). With 87% of the recipients preferred language being Spanish we can assume that many families are challenged to meet this need. The average cost of internet service in Los Angeles can go upwards to \$66/month (7).

Childcare Costs Childcare. This high cost necessity that for some families it means that one of the parents (likely the women) will need to stay at home to meet because they can't be afford it (8). The mean for childcare cost for school aged children in Los Angeles is \$790/ month, but that number nearly doubles to \$1,400 for infants (9).



IMPOSSIBLE TRADE OFFS

A **family of four** that has two school-aged children who receive school meals and lives in an un-subsidized two-bedroom apartment in Los Angeles should expect to spend **\$802 per week** or \$3,200 per month to meet their most basic needs of shelter, food, transport (1 pass) and utilities (no childcare). These numbers contrast with the stark reality of receiving only \$500 as Assistance and the steep gap they face to meet their needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sources:

5. Eating habits and lifestyle changes during COVID-19 lockdown: an Italian survey, NIH, 2020: (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7278251/>)
6. ACS 2019 Yes: California Hispanics: Los Angeles Counties. IPUMS Data: Broadband (high speed) Internet service such as cable, fiber optic, or DSL service (HISPEED)
7. Cost of Living in Los Angeles, Numbeo.com (<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Los-Angeles>)
8. Women in the Workplace 2020, McKenzie, 2020, World Economic Forum (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/10/women-work-gender-equality-covid19/>)
9. California Department of Education: Regional Market Rate Survey 2019-2019 (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/cd/regionalmarketratesurvey.asp>)