

#### **COVID-19 Vulnerable Communities:** Tracking Clients' Critical Needs

JVS Needs Assessment Update

6.12.20



# Millions of Neighbors are Experiencing Surging Financial Stress



#### "It's hard to budget my EBT benefits. It always runs out by the end of the month because I need to buy pre-made food since I have no kitchen to prepare food."

"I called and called and called the unemployment office, and sat on that phone for hours and hours on hold, and never got through to nobody. Probably did it maybe 20-some times. I got so discouraged, I just stopped calling."

#### "I lost my job and can't afford

rent. I asked my landlord to use my security deposit for this month's rent. But now I have to move-in with my elderly parent and I'm concerned for her health due to

covid-19."

## The Need is Changing Over Time



The impact of COVID-19 is evolving and so are the needs of our clients.

#### **Survey Goals & Considerations**

- Understanding how client and household needs have changed since April
- Prioritizing our most vulnerable clients. We focused on re-surveying 273 of our clients making under 45K a year
- Distributing the survey through multiple channels to ensure that we captured the responses from clients without internet access

## **Respondent Demographic Breakdown**



#### Additional Insights

- **70%** of respondents rent their home
- 16% are staying with friends or family
- **50%** of respondents hold a bachelor's degree

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• 21% hold a high school/GED or below

## **Results Reveal Escalation of Community Need**



#### JVS Emergency Response





Since April, JVS has approved **98%** of client resource requests, distributing almost **\$150,000** in emergency support dollars

Majority of the funds were requested for groceries, utility bills, and rent support



Emergency dollars have helped fund 20+ new job search workshops **that serve over 700 new job seekers impacted by COVID-19** 

## This is Just the Beginning

COVID-19 related benefits will start to run out in July, intensifying the existing barriers to employment.

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# Already Vulnerable Communities Will Continue to Get Hit Even *Harder*

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<u>More than 40 million people</u> have filed for unemployment benefits nationwide since the pandemic began.

That's about **25%** of the entire workforce.

JVS was built to respond to crises like this one. Our services are needed now more than ever to help our community get back to work.

