

The MS people are in dire need of help. We can't fight this alone. -Mallery

Do Better.

Hungry. Need a place to lay down and somewhere to call home. -Danea

Continue to give families P-EBT until this pandemic is over with. -Bobbie

COVID-19  
Pandemic

HELP.

Need help covering food and utilities...

Jobless.

Listen.

\$95 in unemployment cannot cover rent necessities etc.

Please Help...

Please help us. -Steve

It hurts because I can't feed my kids. No one is helping me. No one. I feel helpless. -Ivy

Pandemic.

We matter.

-Lakeshia

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From August 28<sup>st</sup>

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Finding # 1: Food insecurity and child care issues have been the top challenges in the pandemic.

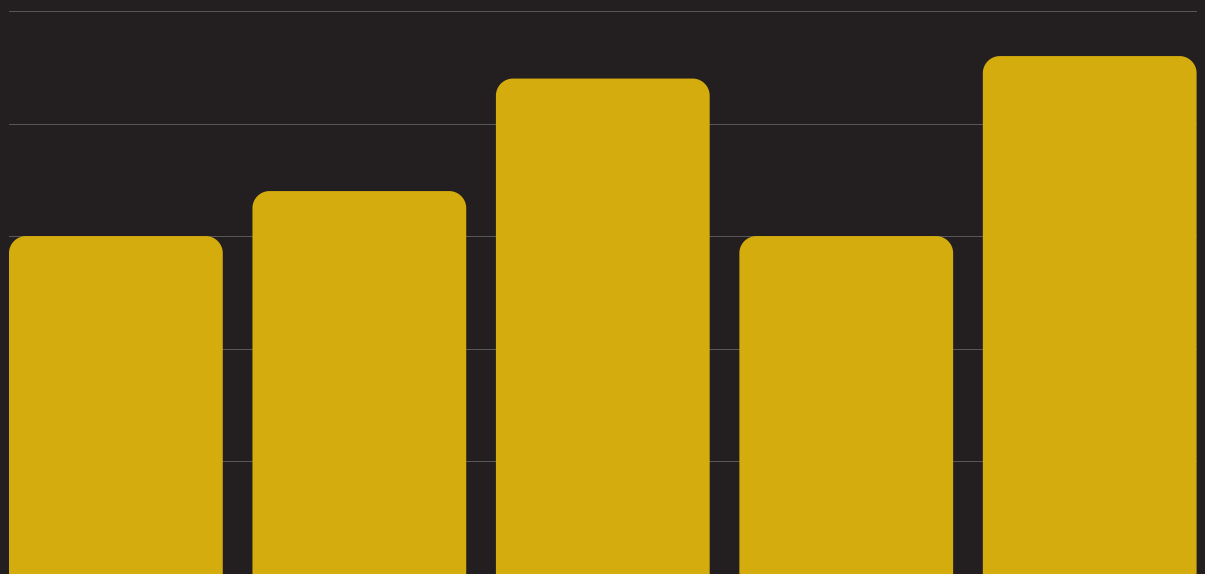
Finding # 2: Government aid made a real difference for many families. df efa

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of these struggling Mississippians have had trouble buying enough food at some point during the pandemic. Child care issues were the second most frequently mentioned challenge, followed closely by job loss. Respondents talked about the burden of higher food prices, hours being cut from their jobs, depression, and stress.

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More than half of respondents (57%) have had problems applying for or receiving at least one type of assistance (UI, stimulus check, SNAP, P-EBT, Medicaid). Of the 12 Southern states surveyed, Mississippi was the only state to have SNAP and P-EBT application issues as the greatest



Unemployment Insurance

Stimulus Checks

SNAP

Medicaid

P-EBT

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Not being able to work due to my child not being able to attend school. Not having enough funds to provide food is a struggle every day. Not knowing if you'll have enough funds to pay your bills is an all night worry.

- Mallery in Mississippi

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Hours were cut down to 5 hours a week at my job. Currently behind on rent.

- S.K. in Mississippi

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Power went up, water went up and I have been served with 2 different eviction notices... how are we supposed to apply for any services if everything was shut down.

How do we get help.

- Margaret

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In spite of challenges applying for or receiving certain aid, 85% of respondents said programs or assistance made a real difference for them and their family in managing the pandemic. Food assistance programs were the most frequently mentioned programs. Stimulus checks and unemployment insurance were the two other most frequently mentioned programs. While helpful, much of the aid has expired or will expire soon.

What has made a real difference?

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The utility service has been kind enough to wait for payments and not cut off our services.

- Joyce

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SNAP. We would not be eating without it.

- Margaret

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Unemployment when we finally got it started.

- Haley



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Overwhelmingly, these struggling Mississippians said they cannot pay for housing, electricity, water, and food due to job loss, wage cuts, and loss of work hours. At the same time, they spoke again and again about food price increases, rent increases, and higher utilities due to being at home more. Covid-19 support and relief was the top concern.

**59%**

**YES**

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