From February 15 to March 10, 2021, over 20,600 people living in Indiana responded to a survey about how their households have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic since March 1, 2020.

The survey was conducted by United Ways across the state with local collaborators and in partnership with United For ALICE, a center of innovation, research, and action around financial hardship.

This survey relied on convenience sampling and is not a representative sample of the state population as a whole. However, the results of this survey provide important insights into the issues households in these communities are facing during this time of profound need.

When COVID-19 hit, 37% of all households in Indiana (approximately 941,000 households) were already struggling to make ends meet — a 10-year record high — setting the stage for the unprecedented economic impact of the pandemic.

This includes households below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and households who are ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. With income above the FPL, ALICE households earn too much to qualify as “poor” but are still unable to cover the basics of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology in the counties where they live.

Of all respondents who submitted valid surveys (excluding out-of-state respondents), 11,188 (74%) had income below the ALICE Threshold, which includes both households below the FPL and ALICE households. To learn more about ALICE in Indiana, visit UnitedForALICE.org/Indiana.
"COVID-19 has impacted us all, regardless if a person tests positive for COVID-19 or not. Times are hard. Trying to pay for PPE items that a person doesn't typically have to buy increases household spending. The price of grocery/food items went up due to children not being able to have meals at school during quarantine. For people who did not have a job to go to during the shutdown, who did not earn wages, this was incredibly difficult because unemployment took forever to go through. Some people got behind and it's hard to get out of debt."

“I am 64 and have underlying medical issues that make me vulnerable to consequences of COVID. But I am essential worker, in supermarket, hourly, and I have to work to pay the bills. No unemployment, no sickpay.”
Our biggest concern is the limited number of child care facilities in our rural area and that has prevented my husband from being able to \textit{return to work}. The few childcare facilities in our area have been struggling with COVID-19 outbreaks, where they have had sporadic available hours. I am an \textit{essential worker} for the state, working remotely, and carry the health insurance for our family, therefore I have been the one that has \textit{remained employed}.

\begin{table}[h]
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\begin{tabular}{|l|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Q. Over the next 6–12 months, what resources do you think will be the most helpful for meeting your household needs? Select all that apply} & \% \\
\hline
Assistance With Rent/Mortgage & 41 \\
Help Providing Food for the Household & 36 \\
Deferred Payment for Debt & 34 \\
Health Insurance Coverage & 27 \\
Assistance Finding a New Job & 17 \\
Technology for Remote Work/School & 14 \\
Access to Affordable Care (Child, Senior, or Person With Disability) & 13 \\
Legal Assistance Including Eviction Protection & 9 \\
Access to Reliable Transportation & 9 \\
Help with COVID-19 Health Costs & 8 \\
\hline
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