

OCTOBER 2020

**IMPACT OF THE  
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC  
ON THE ECONOMIC  
WELL-BEING OF LATINO  
COMMUNITIES IN THE  
UNITED STATES**



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION FOR  
LATINO  
COMMUNITY  
ASSET  
BUILDERS

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# INTRODUCTION

The unprecedented public health response required by the coronavirus pandemic resulted in an immediate and dramatic recession that devastated Latino workers and business owners and is now precipitating an eviction and foreclosure crisis in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Prior to the pandemic, Latinos and other people of color already experienced dramatic disparities in health outcomes and economic conditions. The Great Recession, in particular, produced a long-lasting and disproportionate negative impact on the assets of Latino households.<sup>i</sup>

Pre-pandemic federal policies, historic and more recent, have played a central role in producing these disparities. Tax policies that advantage higher income households, small business investment policies that do little for Latino entrepreneurs and blatantly discriminatory immigration policies are among those that have produced a structural disadvantage in the US economy for many Latino households.

The federal response to the pandemic is exacerbating these inequities by failing to address the urgent needs of Latino households. Millions of Latino workers, especially immigrants, did not receive Unemployment Insurance. The Paycheck Protection Program did nothing for the majority of Latino entrepreneurs who are sole proprietors and microbusiness owners. Despite their critical contribution to the economy as essential workers, undocumented immigrants and US citizens in mixed immigration status families have been excluded from basic humanitarian relief.

*"Latinos are driving demographic growth in the United States and are key to our nation's economic strength."*

Latinos are driving demographic growth in the United States and are key to our nation's economic strength. The data is clear: Latinos are an engine for the US economy. Latinos demonstrate high rates of workforce participation and entrepreneurship. The relative youth of Latinos means that, from a macroeconomic perspective, public policy aimed at investing in the economic strength of Latinos will have an enormous pay off. The corollary is this: failure to address the clear disparities that Latinos experience, particularly as a result of the pandemic, will have a major cost for the entire US economy.

**This briefing paper presents analysis of data on the disproportionate health and economic impacts of the pandemic among Latinos including infection and death rates, job losses, small business closures, unmet basic needs and housing insecurity. It concludes with a call for an intentional and well-targeted federal response that puts Latino workers and entrepreneurs in a position to drive US economic recovery. For more details on how to build an equitable American economy, read [NALCAB's Latino Economic Agenda: A Latino Perspective on US Domestic Economic Policy](#).**

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<sup>i</sup>A Pew Research analysis of the Great Recession reports that from 2005 to 2009, median net worth fell by 66% among Latino households, compared with just 16% among white households. [http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2015/07/fsm-irs-report\\_artifinal.pdf?la=en](http://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2015/07/fsm-irs-report_artifinal.pdf?la=en)



# ABOUT NALCAB

NALCAB - The National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders is the hub of a national network of more than 120 mission-driven organizations that are anchor institutions in geographically and ethnically diverse Latino communities in 40 states, Washington DC and Puerto Rico. Members of the NALCAB Network invest in their communities by supporting small business growth, building affordable housing and providing financial counseling. NALCAB's mission is to strengthen the economy by advancing economic mobility in Latino communities. 70% or more of those served by the NALCAB Network are Latino, 20% are Black and more than 40% are immigrants.

NALCAB' vision is to dramatically scale the flow of public and private sector capital that responsibly meets the asset building needs and opportunities in the communities and families we serve. NALCAB achieves its mission and vision by strengthening and coordinating the capacity of the NALCAB Network to deploy capital, and by influencing investors and policy makers with research, advocacy and technical advice.

As an experienced grantmaker, CDFI lender, and network coordinator NALCAB has a track record of responding to economic crises. After the Great Recession, NALCAB led its Network in deploying hundreds of millions of dollars in federal stimulus funding from various federal agencies and private philanthropic sources. NALCAB is now managing the largest and most targeted national response to the economic fallout from the COVID crisis in our nation's diverse Latino communities by channeling millions of dollars in grants and low-cost debt to more than 100 NALCAB Network members. In conjunction with these investments, NALCAB undertook an in-depth survey of community-based organizations on the frontlines of responding to the human and economic impact of the pandemic. The information received from these surveys makes it clear that the impacts of COVID-19 in the communities we serve have been dramatic and will be long-term. This brief provides a snapshot of the impacts to date of the pandemic in Latino communities across the US, including places like Queens, NY, Miami's Allapattah neighborhood, Houston's Gulfton neighborhood, the Mission District in San Francisco and Chatham County, NC. It draws on data from these surveys and interviews with NALCAB Network members as well as published reports and articles.

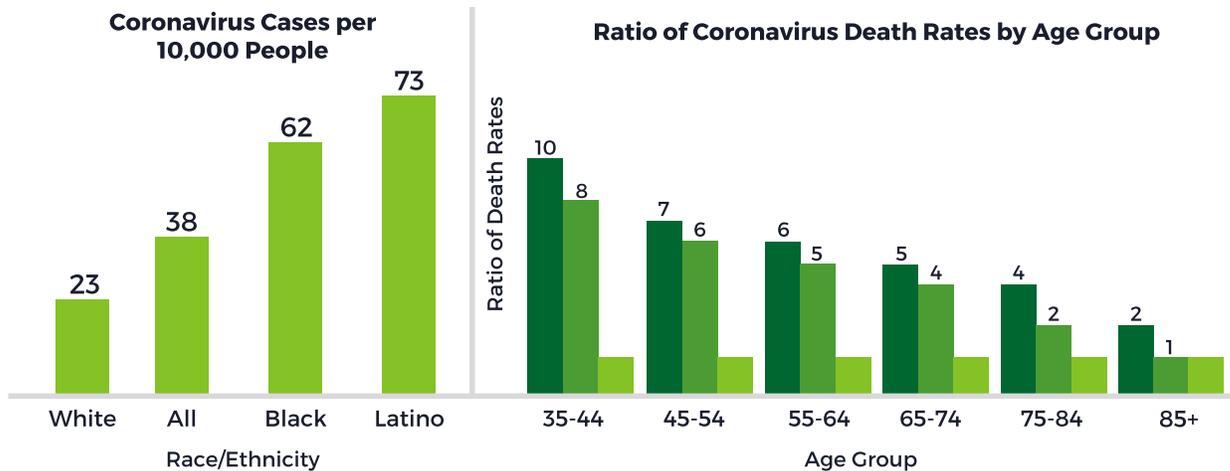
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# COVID-19 INFECTION & DEATH RATES

Latinos have been infected with the coronavirus at the highest rate of any racial/ethnic group and are dying at higher rates than white Americans across most age groups. <sup>ii, iii</sup>



Source: The New York Times, recreated by authors

Source: Brookings Institution, recreated by authors. Description: This table shows that, in the 35-44 age group, for example, Black Americans and Latino Americans are dying from COVID-19 at 10 times and 8 times the rate of white Americans, respectively.

According to an analysis by the New York Times, “Black and Latino people have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus in a widespread manner that spans the country, throughout hundreds of counties in urban, suburban and rural areas, and across all age groups.” <sup>iv</sup> In April, for example, approximately 3,000 individuals in San Francisco’s Mission district were tested for the virus. While only 44 percent of those tested were Latino, over 95 percent of those who tested positive for the virus were Latino. <sup>v</sup>

The reasons for this are similar across the towns, cities, and regions served by NALCAB Network members. In many communities, local governments have been slow to produce and widely disseminate information about the virus and preventative measures in languages other than English. Latinos are disproportionately employed in the “essential jobs” that keep our food, healthcare, and transportation systems functioning and that cannot be done from home.

<sup>ii</sup> Oppel Jr., R. A.; Gebeloff, R. K.K.; Lai R.; Wright, W.; & Smith, M. (July 5, 2020). *The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus*. The New York Times. Retrieved July 7, 2020 from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/05/us/coronavirus-latinos-african-americans-cdc-data.html>

<sup>iii</sup> Ford, T.; Reber, S.; & Reeves, R. V. (June 16, 2020). *Race gaps in COVID-19 deaths are even bigger than they appear*. Brookings Institution. Retrieved July 7, 2020 from <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/06/16/race-gaps-in-covid-19-deaths-are-even-bigger-than-they-appear/>

<sup>iv</sup> Oppel Jr., R. A.; Gebeloff, R. K.K.; Lai R.; Wright, W.; & Smith, M. (July 5, 2020). *The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus*. The New York Times. Retrieved July 7, 2020 from <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/05/us/coronavirus-latinos-african-americans-cdc-data.html>

<sup>v</sup> Fernandez, E. & Weiler, N. (May 4, 2020). *Initial Results of Mission District COVID-19 Testing Announced*. University of California San Francisco. Retrieved August 11, 2020 from <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/05/417356/initial-results-mission-district-covid-19-testing-announced>

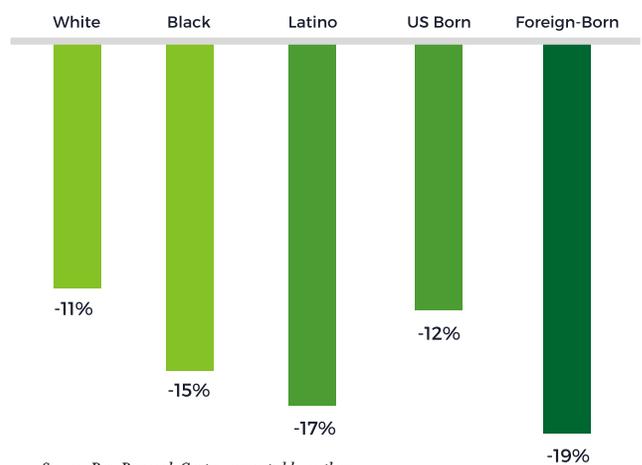
Many Latino workers, especially those employed in meat and poultry processing plants, have had to work without sufficient protective equipment or physical distancing. Furthermore, decades into an affordable housing crisis affecting high- and low-cost cities alike, many Latino essential workers live in overcrowded conditions. In California, for instance, “an analysis by the Public Policy Institute of California found that essential workers who left their homes to work during the stay-at-home order are more likely to live in overcrowded households.”<sup>vi</sup> Finally, choosing to stay at home to protect oneself and family from the virus is a luxury many Latinos, particularly those in low wage jobs, cannot afford.

## LOST JOBS

Prior to the pandemic, Latino workers earned lower wages than white, Black, and Asian American workers. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2019 the median weekly earnings for full-time employed Latinos aged 25 and older was just \$734 (\$18.35/hour), compared to \$995 for white Americans.

Nearly one-in-five Latino and immigrant workers have lost their jobs during the pandemic.<sup>vii</sup> Nearly 90% of NALCAB Network survey respondents reported job losses and reduced hours among their clientele, many of whom had jobs that cannot be done remotely, in industries that have been deeply impacted by economic restrictions (such as in restaurants and hotels). Latinas have experienced the worst job losses of any group, with 21% losing their jobs between February and May of this year. This is due to the high concentration of Latinas employed in the leisure and hospitality sector, which has experienced the largest job losses of any sector in the economy.<sup>viii</sup>

**Percent of Workers Who Lost Their Job Between Feb - May 2020**



Five months into the pandemic, employment for higher earners has already recovered, yet jobs for workers earning less than \$20/hour are still scarce.<sup>ix</sup>

In the neighborhoods served by NALCAB Network members, where some of the country’s most vulnerable workers live, rates of joblessness are even higher. In one Washington, DC apartment building, where tenants mostly work in service-industry occupations, nearly one-in-three have lost their job.

<sup>vi</sup> Lin II, Rong-Gong. (June 27, 2020). *California Latino, Black residents hit even harder by coronavirus as white people see less danger*. Los Angeles Times. Retrieved July 21, 2020 from <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-06-27/california-latinos-black-people-hit-even-harder-by-coronavirus>

<sup>vii</sup> Krogstad, Jens Manuel & Lopez, Mark Hugo. *Coronavirus Economic Downturn Has Hit Latinos Especially Hard*. Pew Research Center. August 2020. <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2020/08/04/coronavirus-economic-downturn-has-hit-latinos-especially-hard/>

<sup>viii</sup> Kochhar, R. (June 9, 2020). *Hispanic women, immigrants, young adults, those with less education hit hardest by COVID-19 job losses*. Pew Research Center. Retrieved July 7, 2020 from <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/06/09/hispanic-women-immigrants-young-adults-those-with-less-education-hit-hardest-by-covid-19-job-losses/>

<sup>ix</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/08/13/recession-is-over-rich-working-class-is-far-recovered/>

In another building, in Miami-Dade County, two-thirds of residents – who primarily work in the hospitality industry – lost their jobs when the local tourism industry shut down.

With historically high levels of unemployment, the nation's unemployment insurance program has played a major part in keeping families out of poverty in the short term. Yet the system has major gaps. Many families served by NALCAB Network members are undocumented, and therefore ineligible for benefits. Nationwide, the Migration Policy Institute estimates there were approximately 7 million undocumented individuals working prior to the pandemic,<sup>x</sup> which is equivalent to approximately 4.5% of the total employed civilian population in 2018. None of those 7 million individuals are eligible for unemployment insurance. In the nation's largest state, California, a UCLA study found that more than one quarter of the jobless (or about 1 million people) were ineligible for Unemployment Insurance: 59% of these individuals are Latino and between one-third and one-half are undocumented immigrants.<sup>xi</sup>

This problem is not going away. After almost four months of decline, new unemployment claims increased in mid-July, signaling that the economic crisis for U.S. workers continues.<sup>xii</sup>

## SMALL BUSINESS CLOSURES

Businesses owned by Latinos, African Americans, and immigrants have closed at higher rates than white-owned businesses.<sup>xiii, xiv, xv</sup> Seventy percent of NALCAB Network members that serve small businesses reported closures of small businesses among their organization's clientele. One NALCAB Network member serving small businesses in Watsonville, on California's Central Coast, reported that three-quarters of their small business clients have had to close their doors temporarily. While some business activity recovered in May as stay-at-home orders were eased in many states, one-in-five Latino-owned and one-in-four and immigrant-owned businesses remained closed. Data from June and July, which will reflect the impact of the surge of coronavirus in new hotspots with large Latino populations (Texas, Florida, and California), can be expected to show things getting even worse for Latino and immigrant small business owners. There is growing evidence that many of the temporarily shuttered businesses will close permanently as the U.S. continues to fail to control the spread of the virus.<sup>xvi</sup>

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<sup>x</sup> Parolin, Z.; Curran, M.A.; & Wimer, C. (June 21, 2020). *The CARES ACT and POVERTY in the COVID-19 CRISIS: Promises and Pitfalls of the Recovery Rebates and Expanded Unemployment Benefits*. *Poverty & Social Policy Brief*, 4(8). Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University. Retrieved July 13, 2020 from <https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/news-internal/coronavirus-cares-act-forecasting-poverty-estimates>

<sup>xi</sup> <https://latino.ucla.edu/research/jobless-during-a-global-pandemic/>

<sup>xii</sup> Cohen, P. (July 23, 2020). *Rise in Unemployment Claims Signals an Economic Reversal*. *The New York Times*. Retrieved July 23, 2020 from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/23/business/economy/unemployment-economy-coronavirus.html>

<sup>xiii</sup> Fairlie, R. (May 2020). *The Impact of Covid-19 on Small Business Owners: Evidence of Early-Stage Losses from The April 2020 Current Population Survey (Working Paper No. 20-022)*. Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. Retrieved July 10, 2020 from <https://siepr.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/publications/20-022.pdf>

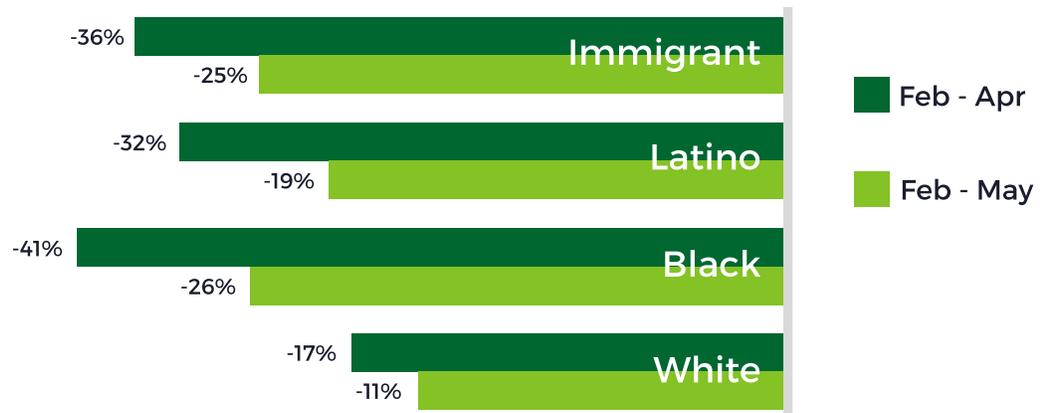
<sup>xiv</sup> Fairlie, R. (June 2020). *The Impact of COVID-19 on Small Business Owners: Continued Losses and the Partial Rebound in May 2020 (Working Paper No. 2020-01)*. University of California, Santa Cruz, Institute for Social Transformation. Retrieved July 10, 2020 from <https://transform.ucsc.edu/impact-of-covid-19-on-small-business-owners/>

<sup>xv</sup> González, Jorge (August 2020). *The Pandemic is Threatening Latino Entrepreneurship, but Local Leaders Can Help*. (Blog) Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/pandemic-threatening-latino-entrepreneurship-local-leaders-can-help>

<sup>xvi</sup> Flütter, E. (July 13, 2020). *'I Can't Keep Doing This.' Small Business Owners Are Giving Up*. *The New York Times*. Retrieved July 13, 2020 from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/13/business/small-businesses-coronavirus.html>

In the Miami neighborhood of Allapattah, which has a population that is 80% Latino, 18% Black, and 55% foreign born, even the small businesses that have been able to reopen are struggling; their clients have lost jobs and don't have money to spend, or are afraid of going out to shop in a neighborhood with such high levels of COVID-19 infections (Allapattah has been designated a hotspot for coronavirus in Miami-Dade County).

### Percent Change in Active Businesses by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin of Owner



The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was the primary federal response to the impact of the pandemic on small businesses and sole proprietors. The implementation of the PPP by the Treasury Department and Small Business Administration left out the significant majority of underserved sole proprietors and a large number of microentrepreneurs – including those owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, women, the underbanked, and those with limited English proficiency.

This was clear from the earliest days of the program's roll out and was substantiated in numerous independent analyses and media reports. The Center for Responsible Lending, in a policy analysis brief from late May, pointed out ways in which the program's administration, fee structures, and application process disadvantaged, or entirely left out, micro business owners and sole proprietors of color.<sup>xvii</sup> A May survey of 500 small businesses documents that, of the Latino small business owners surveyed, half of those who applied for assistance from the federal government received no help.<sup>xviii</sup> On May 8, the Inspector General for the Small Business Administration released a report that further reinforced this conclusion, finding that the SBA's implementation of PPP did not carry out the stated intent of the CARES Act to prioritize underserved markets. NALCAB took a leadership role with a broad coalition of advocates to offer solutions.<sup>xix</sup>

<sup>xvii</sup> *The Paycheck Protection Program Continues to be Disadvantageous to Smaller Businesses, Especially Businesses Owned by People of Color and the Self-Employed.* (May 27, 2020). The Center for Responsible Lending. Retrieved July 21, 2020 from <https://www.responsiblelending.org/research-publication/paycheck-protection-program-continues-be-disadvantageous-smaller-businesses>

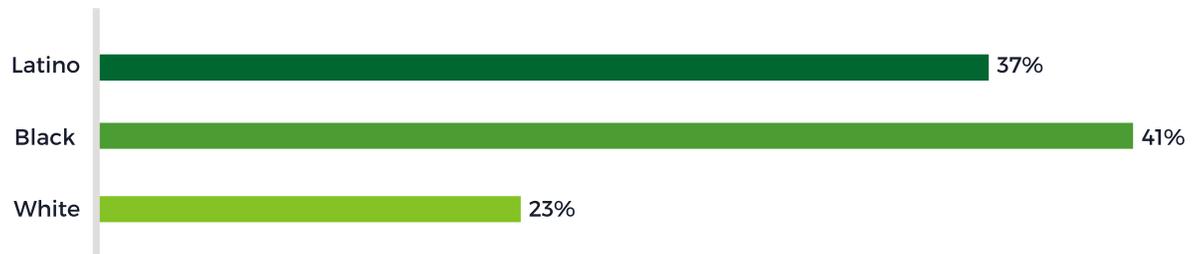
<sup>xviii</sup> *First COVID-19 Survey of Black and Latino Small-Business Owners Reveals Dire Economic Future, Inaccessible and Insufficient Government Relief Funds.* (May 18, 2020). Global Strategy Group, for Color Of Change and UnidosUS. Retrieved July 10, 2020 from [https://colorofchange.org/press\\_release/first-covid-19-survey-of-black-and-latino-small-business-owners-reveals-dire-economic-future/](https://colorofchange.org/press_release/first-covid-19-survey-of-black-and-latino-small-business-owners-reveals-dire-economic-future/)

<sup>xix</sup> [https://nalcab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Press-Release-NALCAB-Joins-Organizations-Calling-on-Congress-\\_NALCAB-version2.pdf](https://nalcab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Press-Release-NALCAB-Joins-Organizations-Calling-on-Congress-_NALCAB-version2.pdf) [https://nalcab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Joint-Letter-on-opening-access-to-PPP-for-underserved-businesses-5-21-20\\_FINALv2.pdf](https://nalcab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Joint-Letter-on-opening-access-to-PPP-for-underserved-businesses-5-21-20_FINALv2.pdf)

# UNMET BASIC NEEDS

Due to pre-existing financial insecurity and the disproportionate loss of jobs and business income, Latino and African American households are much more likely than white households to struggle to pay for food and housing as a result of the pandemic.<sup>xx, xxi</sup>

## Households Experiencing Food Insecurity - June 23, 2020



Source: Diane Schanzenbach and Abigail Pitts, Northwestern University, analysis of US Census Bureau's Household Pulse Survey

77% of NALCAB Network survey respondents reported food insecurity among families who are having to choose between paying rent or feeding their families. This is true in places as diverse as the Rio Grande Valley, Boston, Kansas City, and rural Oregon. Sadly, more than third of survey respondents also indicated that the people they served were using predatory financial products, such as payday and autotitle loans to meet their emergency needs.

# HOUSING INSECURITY

The impact of the pandemic is putting millions of households at risk of eviction or foreclosure. A disproportionate number of those at risk are Latino.<sup>xxii</sup> In May, 67% of NALCAB survey respondents noted their clients were at risk of losing their housing due to an inability to pay rent, and 40% indicated their clients were at risk of foreclosure. Eviction moratoria and payment deferrals for mortgages have delayed an increasingly dire situation. Furthermore, there is already evidence from states like Texas that undocumented immigrants and their families are already being forced from their homes as they fall behind on rent.<sup>xxiii</sup>

<sup>xx</sup> Schanzenbach, D. & Pitts, A. (July 9, 2020). *Food Insecurity During COVID-19 in Households with Children: Results by Racial and Ethnic Groups*. Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University. Retrieved July 10, 2020 from <https://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/news/2020/food-insecurity-by-race-ethnicity.html>

<sup>xxi</sup> Maxwell, C. (June 10, 2020). *The Coronavirus Crisis Is Worsening Racial Inequality*. Center for American Progress. Retrieved July 10, 2020 from <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2020/06/10/486095/coronavirus-crisis-worsening-racial-inequality/>

<sup>xxii</sup> <https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/blacks-latinos-more-likely-to-face-housing-displacement>

<sup>xxiii</sup> Venkataramanan, M. & Garnham, J.P. (July 22, 2020). *Undocumented immigrants behind on their rent are self-evicting across Texas*. The Texas Tribune. Retrieved July 23, 2020 from <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/07/22/evictions-texas-undocumented-immigrants/>

The one-time \$1,200 stimulus checks mailed to every individual earning less than \$75,000 who filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 using a Social Security Number helped millions of families meet their basic needs, including rent and mortgage payments, in April, May and June. Millions of families, however, did not receive any federal stimulus. The CARES Act explicitly excluded undocumented immigrants, including those who filed and paid taxes using an IRS-issued Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN), as well as anyone who filed taxes jointly with an ITIN holder, including US citizens and permanent residents. As a result, the Migration Policy Institute estimates that 15.4 million individuals in mixed-status families did not receive stimulus checks, including 5.5 million US citizens and green card holders, of whom 3.7 million are children.<sup>xxiv</sup>

While housing prices have fallen in recent months, there is evidence that rents are not falling as quickly for low-cost housing. In Los Angeles, for example, luxury rentals are experiencing the highest drops in prices (4.2% on average), while Class B and Class C properties, which are more affordable, are seeing much lower decreases (2% and 0.2% respectively). Price changes also vary across neighborhoods, with higher cost areas seeing rent decreases while rents in more affordable areas are basically unchanged.<sup>xxv</sup>

*"The CARES Act explicitly excluded undocumented immigrants, including those who filed and paid taxes."*

Research from the Urban Institute indicates that the pandemic and eventual recovery will likely exacerbate the existing crisis of housing affordability if nothing is done to address the underlying issues that have been driving up the cost of housing in recent years. The researchers warn that, "both low-price home and rental prices will continue to increase faster than prices for high-price homes, widening residual income inequality between low- and high-income homeowner and renter households. This could also hurt the ability of low-income households to build financial strength and could make them more vulnerable to future economic shocks."<sup>xxvi</sup>

According to the Mortgage Bankers Association, mortgage delinquency rates showed their highest quarterly spike ever.<sup>xxvii</sup> Further, small landlords are being impacted by tenants being unable to keep up with their rent. The precipitous loss of wealth among Hispanic households due to foreclosures during the Great Recession is a sobering warning about the potential impact of another foreclosure crisis precipitated by the pandemic.<sup>xxviii</sup> As was the case after the Great Recession, a wave of foreclosures will likely lead to investors buying up foreclosed and distressed properties.

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<sup>xxiv</sup> *Mixed-Status Families Ineligible for CARES Act Federal Pandemic Stimulus Checks.* (May 2020). Migration Policy Institute. Retrieved July 10, 2020 from <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/content/mixed-status-families-ineligible-pandemic-stimulus-checks>

<sup>xxv</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2020-08-10/la-rent-is-falling-high-end>

<sup>xxvi</sup> <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/housing-supply-constraints-pandemic-will-worsen-inequality-we-start-recover>

<sup>xxvii</sup> <https://www.mba.org/2020-press-releases/august/mortgage-delinquencies-spike-in-the-second-quarter-of-2020>

<sup>xxviii</sup> <https://www.stlouisfed.org/on-the-economy/2017/august/why-housing-bust-hit-black-latino-families-harder>



# CONCLUSION

This report highlights the disproportionate negative impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having on the health and economic well-being of Latino communities across the US. It also illuminates how the Federal government's response to the pandemic has exacerbated disparities and failed to address the needs of the most vulnerable households. There remains a pressing need to address the immediate health, hunger and housing needs until the pandemic is brought under control.

An effective economic recovery must rebuild the US economy to be more inclusive and equitable, including by investing in Latino workers and entrepreneurs who are driving demographic and economic growth in the US. Recovery efforts must advance economic mobility for working people.

The following are key policy priorities detailed in NALCAB's [Latino Economic Agenda: A Latino Perspective on US Domestic Economic Policy, which are even more relevant as Latino communities struggle to be resilient in the face of the pandemic.](#) The Latino Economic Agenda has been endorsed by more than 100 community-based organizations around the country.

- **Address the Nation's Affordable Housing Crisis** - Many households are already losing their housing, and debt is piling up for millions of others, even if they have been protected by eviction moratoria and mortgage forbearances. There is an immediate need to support the incomes of households that have lost income due to the pandemic in an amount that not only meets their basic needs but also allows them to cover their housing costs. There will also be a need to support small landlords who are struggling to meet their mortgage obligations due to lost rent. Post-pandemic, it is time for GSE reform and increased federal investment that supports a long overdue increase in the production and preservation of affordable housing.

- **Catalyze Small Business Growth** – Our nation’s most vulnerable entrepreneurs, including many microbusiness owners and most sole proprietors, have received little or nothing from the multi-hundred-billion-dollar federal stimulus that was delivered through Unemployment Insurance and the Paycheck Protection Program. There remains an urgent need to provide financial relief to very small businesses and sole proprietors who are struggling to survive through this dramatic and dangerous economic downturn. Post-pandemic, there is a need to transform the Small Business Administration and other relevant federal agencies so that they equitably serve entrepreneurs of color, women, and immigrants.
- **Stabilize and Strengthen Neighborhoods** – The NALCAB Network has called on Congress to authorize the Strong Neighborhoods Program, building on learnings from the Neighborhood Stabilization Program Round II (NSP II) authorized in the 2008 stimulus, for the purpose of supporting local communities to strengthen neighborhoods in which residents experience a high level of housing vulnerability due to diverse local market challenges ranging from long term disinvestment to gentrification to environmental contamination – the impacts of which have been exacerbated by the coronavirus crisis.
- **Support Economic Mobility for Working Class People** – As a nation, we have the opportunity to rebuild our economy better than it was; to truly support the economic mobility of everyone living in the country. In addition to the policies described above, this will require equitable tax, education and health care policies that give working class families a real shot at their American Dream.

*This report was made possible through financial support from JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and UBS. NALCAB also received additional support for our response to the COVID-19 crisis from Citi Community Development, Oportun, Union Bank, Bank of America, Opportunity Finance Network, Rockefeller Foundation, and the San Antonio Area Foundation.*