THE SURVEY

The COVID-19 Impact Survey conducted on behalf of First 5 Contra Costa gathered important information on the needs of families with young children in the county and what parents identify as the supports that would be most beneficial in the COVID-19 era.

The 412 survey respondents represented the full spectrum of residents across the county, levels of income, race and ethnicities, and primary languages. The results indicate that the shelter in place (SIP) order, in effect for about four months at the time of the survey, has financially hurt many families and raised concerns about their own and their children’s wellbeing.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAMILIES

GENERAL DIFFICULTIES

The top areas of impact of COVID-19 included experiences of social isolation, rising household expenses, and stress due to family as an essential worker. Respondents with family incomes $50K and higher most often selected social isolation (63%) as the highest concern and respondents with family incomes under $50K most often selected household expenses (60%) as their highest concern.

FINANCIAL WELLBEING

Of those working at the time of the SIP order, one-third lost their employment and one-quarter experienced a decrease in work hours. Families with incomes under $50K were harder hit with nearly one-half (47%) losing their employment and 35% experiencing reduced work hours.

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING

Many respondents reported an emotional toll on their wellbeing as a result of COVID-19 over the prior two weeks.

CHILD WELLBEING

Nearly three out of five respondents expressed concerns about children making progress in their education or early learning and the effects of social isolation. Two out of five respondents indicated that child anxiety or stress and behavioral issues were significant concerns.
IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON FAMILY NEEDS

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORTS
The top needs identified by respondents during the SIP order included: Assistance with rent, mortgage, or bills, parenting support, as well as baby supplies and baby needs. Almost all families needing baby items requested diapers (90%), two-thirds needed books/toys/education resources (66%), and slightly under one-half (44%) needed baby or maternity clothes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance with rent/mortgage/paying bills</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting support</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby needs/supplies</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHILDCARE NEEDS AND CONCERNS
Three out of five respondents with professional childcare lost access due to the SIP order. A portion of respondents needed immediate access to childcare and one-third needed access once the order lifted in the county. A majority of respondents expressed concern about exposure to COVID-19 (77%) or cost (54%) if their child returned to childcare.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lost childcare due to SIP</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need childcare once SIP lifts</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need childcare now</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESIRED ACTION STEPS
The survey asked respondents to prioritize key actions steps the County could take to support them and their families. Over one-half of respondents prioritized action steps related to financial stabilization—debt forgiveness and stimulus checks and cash assistance.

- **61%** Debt forgiveness & stimulus checks
- **54%** Cash assistance
- **39%** Education/training programs
- **38%** Health care for all