



UPDATE: March 27, 2020

As our government leaders address this national crisis, your Women's Fund has remained focused on advocacy, paying attention to how COVID-19 and the policy response will impact our low-wage workforce. Thanks to our partnership with [Cohear](#) we are participating in regular virtual meetings with those most affected by the economic-side of COVID-19 so we can understand how community needs are evolving.

Along with tracking federal, state and local legislation and interventions in real-time, here are a few other issues we are paying attention to:

- Food insecurity and how public benefits recipients can continue to access food and groceries. The USDA has a pilot program in a few states (not Ohio) that allows SNAP benefits to be used for grocery delivery services. We believe Congress should quickly expand this pilot, providing self-isolating and quarantined recipients across the country the ability to safely access food while remaining at home.
- Child care. As centers focus child care on families of health, safety, and other essential workers, we are tracking who can access these centers and whether there is sufficient funding to provide care for as many families as necessary.
- Predatory lending practices. Payday lending increases during times of economic crisis. Payday lenders should be prohibited from profiting off of this crisis and prevented from adding interest on delinquent loans.
- Rent and utility payments. Many are concerned about making their rent/mortgage and utility payments. This is being addressed in the short-term through eviction freezes and moratoriums on payment during this time of crisis. But for how long, and what happens next? We are looking at the longer-term impacts of COVID-19 on housing insecurity.

Is there a key issue facing our low-wage workforce that isn't currently being addressed?

Please let us know, [womensfund@gcfdn.org](mailto:womensfund@gcfdn.org)