

# Community Action OF SOUTHEAST IOWA

## Public Needs Survey Summary Responding to COVID-19 May 11, 2020 Analysis

### Notes

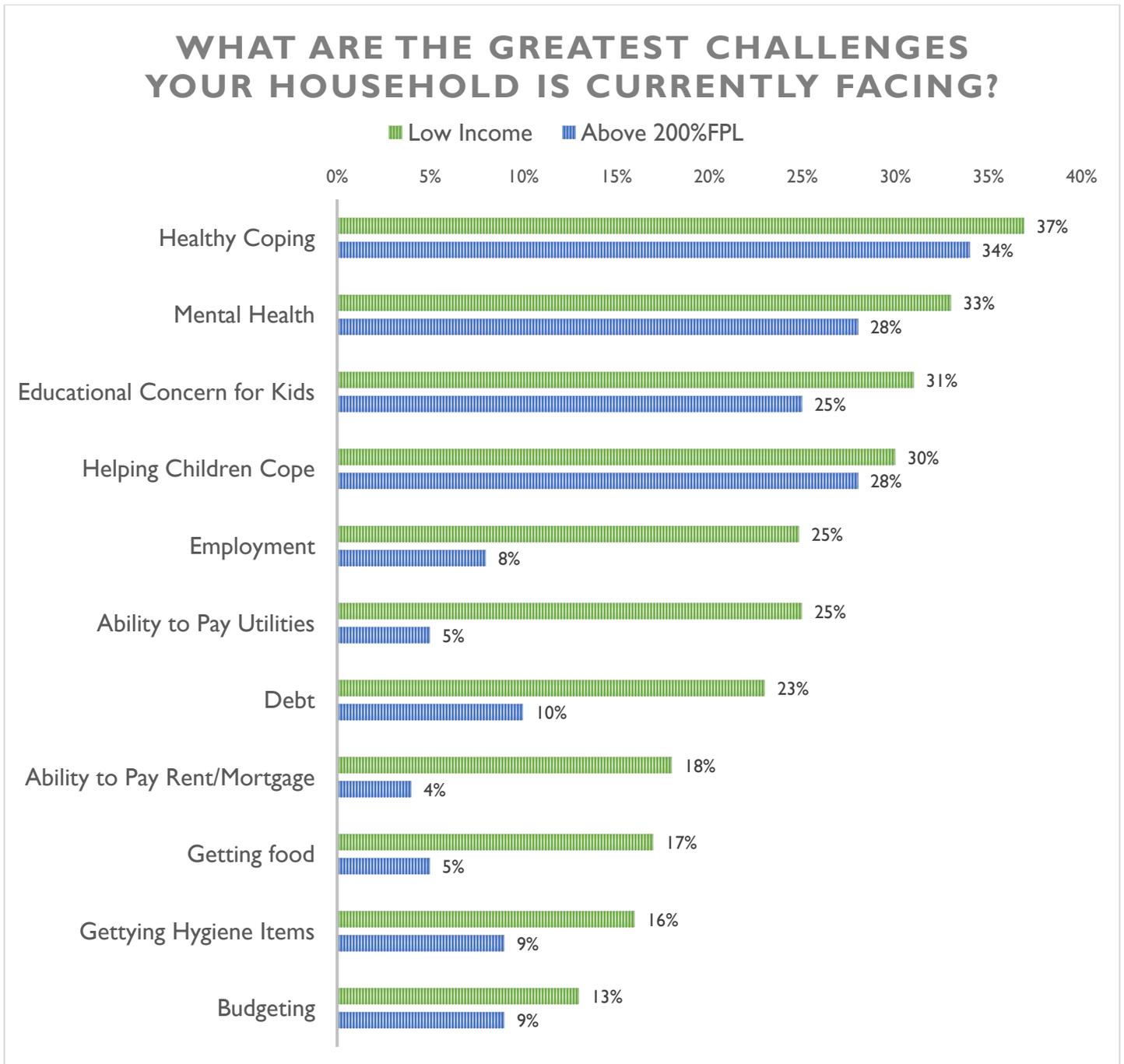
1. Total responses 492
2. Low income responses 195
3. Above 200% FPL responses 297
4. County Responses

County	% of Respondents to COVID-19 Survey	% of FY19 agency clients from respective counties
Des Moines	37%	47%
Henry	29%	14%
Lee	19%	32%
Louisa	8%	9%
Muscatine	2%	
Other	3%	

### 2020 Poverty Guidelines - Monthly (F.P.L.)

Based on Monthly Household Income

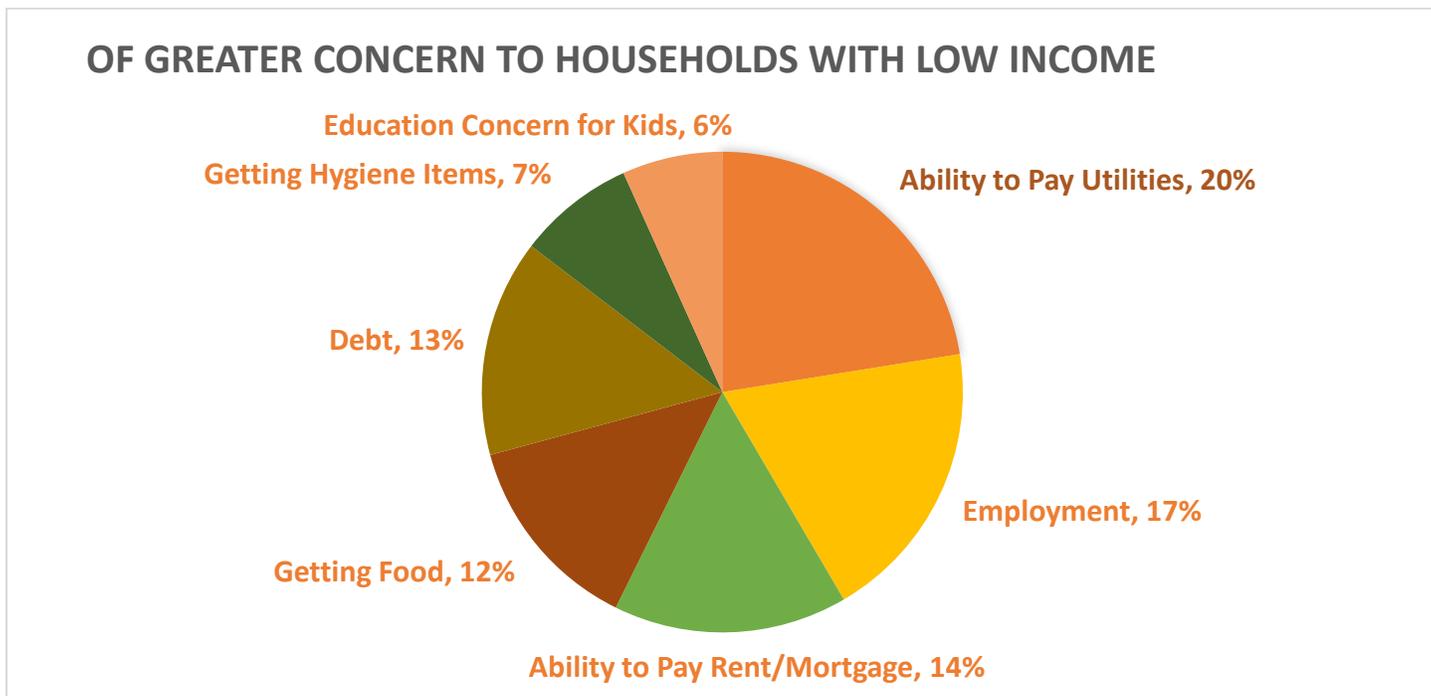
# In Household	200%
1	\$2,127
2	\$2,873
3	\$3,620
4	\$4,367
5	\$5,113
6	\$5,860
7	\$6,607
8	\$7,353
* Add \$373 for each person over 8	



The above chart is in order of greatest need as identified by those of low income.

When looking forward at the next 30 days 90% of respondents anticipate their greatest need to continue to be what it is currently.

Below lists significant differences between those of low income and those above 200% FPL self-identified greatest household challenges. They are listed by the percentage of increase of respondents of low income. Example: Ability to pay utilities was listed by 20% more low-income respondents as a great need compared to those above 200% FPL.



Those of low income have significantly higher stress levels regarding finances and employment. Their household challenges are greater than those above 200% FPL. Of households above 200% FPL 42.42% state “my household is comfortable right now with no great needs.” This is compared to only 17.95% of those of low income.

### **Awareness**

Of those of low income: 13.4% say they are “not at all aware of are resources to help my household.” 37.63% say they are “aware of some resources for some needs my household is facing.” Only 23.20% say they have a high knowledge of area resources to help meet their household’s needs.

Navigating systems can be difficult for those in need. 58% state their household income had reduced due to COVID-19 yet 15% said they were unsure if they qualified for COVID-19 unemployment benefits. 31% had applied. In comparison only 6% of those with incomes above 200% of the FPL were unsure if they qualified for unemployemnt.

### **Conclusions**

1. We’re all in the same storm, but not in the same boat. The pandemic has affected the entire world, however in southeast Iowa it affects those of low income in some ways differently than those above poverty.
2. While all people may struggle to find toilet paper, those of low income are having an even harder time. Evidenced by 7% more people identifying that as a great need. This is coupled with other areas those of low income struggle *significantly* more with than those of higher incomes.
  - a. Ability to pay utilities, Employment, Ability to pay rent/mortgage, Getting food, Debt, Getting hygiene items, and increased educational concern for their children.
3. Mental health, healthy coping skills, and stress levels are between 3-6% of greater concern in households of low income. These are crucial areas which affect many other aspects of life. Stress is affecting everyone, however those of low income at a greater rate.
  - a. This may not be statistically significant enough for some (though every category in mental health is of greater concern for those of low income), however in other categories such as 20% more of those of low income noting their ability to pay utilities as a great need can not be denied.
4. 58% of those of low income have had their income reduced due to COVID-19. Having a period of reduced income will affect many areas of their lives moving forward. In our 2019 community needs assessments we know that top needs of those of low income are: employment, housing, transportation, food, and budgeting. According to the 2020 Client Needs Assessment they identified getting food, debt, employment, a livable wage, budgeting, mental health, transportation, and housing as top needs.
5. With the increased struggles of those of low income we at Community Action are working on ways to support those of low income through increased programs and services as a result of COVID-19.