



**COVID-19**  
**Promoting equity & mobility in state & federal policy responses**  
April 9, 2020



*States are  
projected to  
lose more jobs  
due to the  
coronavirus,*  
Economic  
Policy Institute

## Georgia

**Projected job loss as a share of total private-sector employment: 15.5%**

Projected job loss: 608,459

Implied unemployment rate, July 2020: 14.9%

Implied unemployment level in July assuming no change in labor force: 769,594

Leisure, hospitality, and retail as a share of total private-sector employment: 25.4%

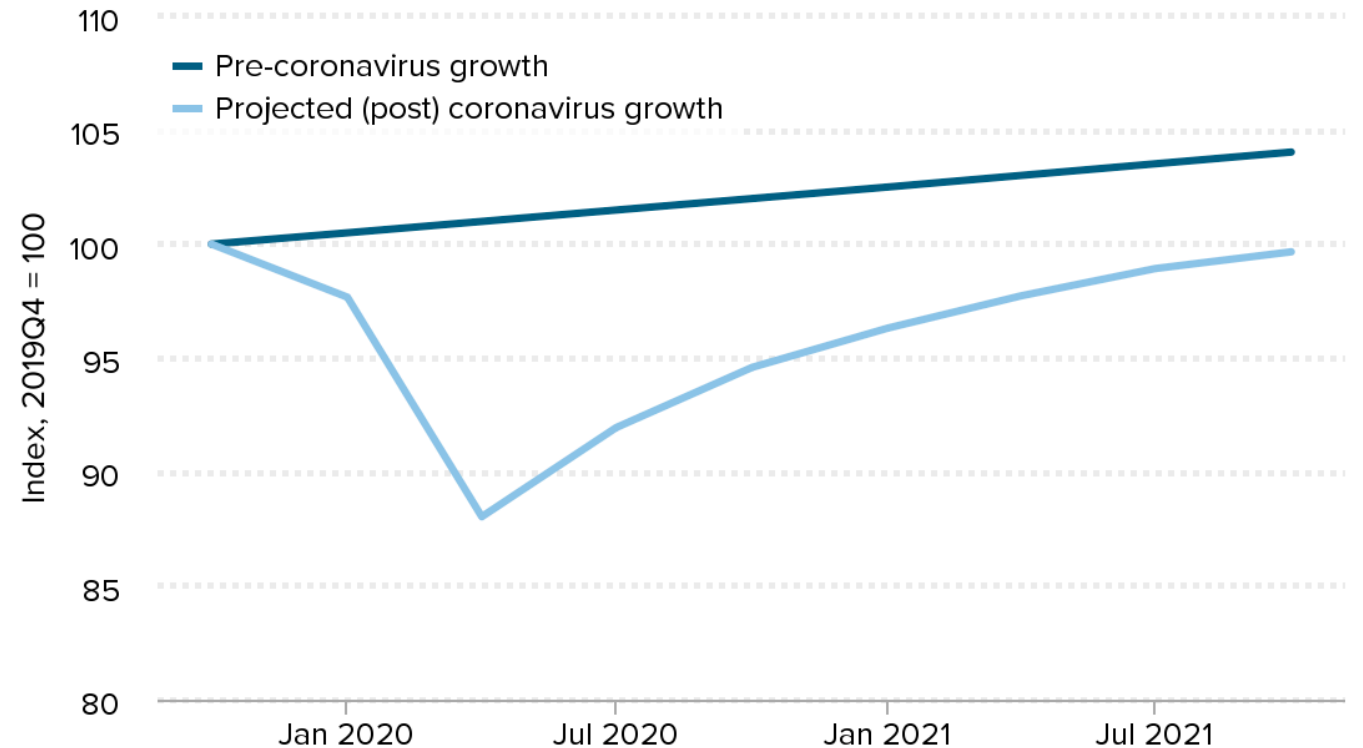
**Note:** "Job loss" refers to job losses, layoffs, or furloughs. Map shows employment loss consistent with a Goldman Sachs March 31 forecast of GDP growth for the first half of 2020, which accounts for the expected effect of the CARES Act.

**Source:** Economic Policy Institute analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics and Local Area Unemployment Statistics data and [Goldman Sachs March 31, 2020, US Economic Analyst forecast](#)

Forecasts of the size of the drag on growth imposed by the coronavirus (and associated public health measures) have risen *rapidly* in recent weeks.

## Projected GDP growth

Pre-coronavirus trend and Goldman Sachs forecast

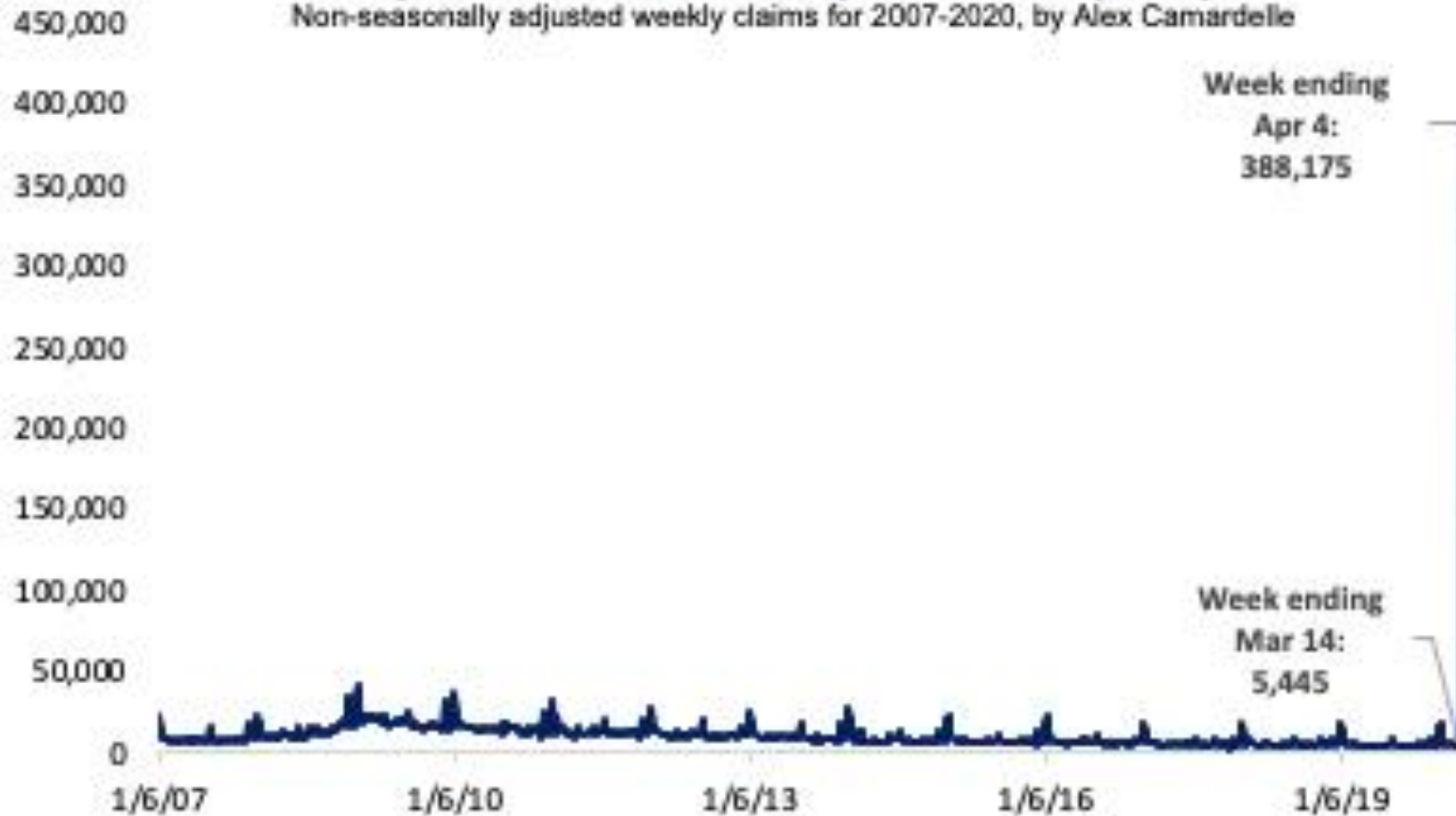


**Note:** Pre-coronavirus trend assumes 2% growth in real (inflation-adjusted) GDP, a rate consistent with long-run trends in productivity growth (1.5%) and projected growth in the labor force (0.5%).

**Source:** Author's analysis using data from Goldman Sachs U.S. Economics Analyst newsletter (not publicly available)

## Georgia's initial weekly unemployment insurance claims grew by 7,000% in 4 weeks (March 14-April 4)

Non-seasonally adjusted weekly claims for 2007-2020, by Alex Camardelle

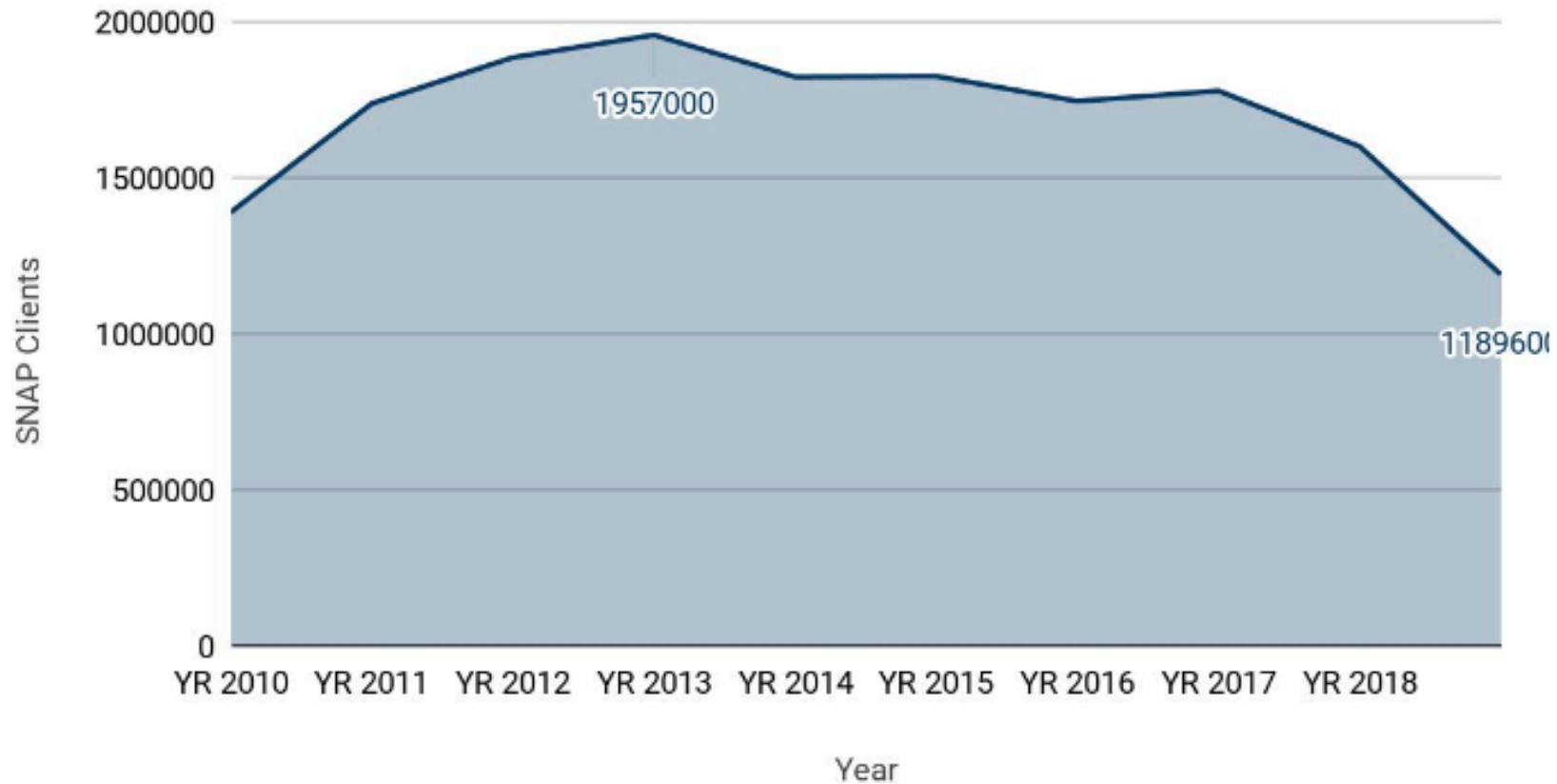






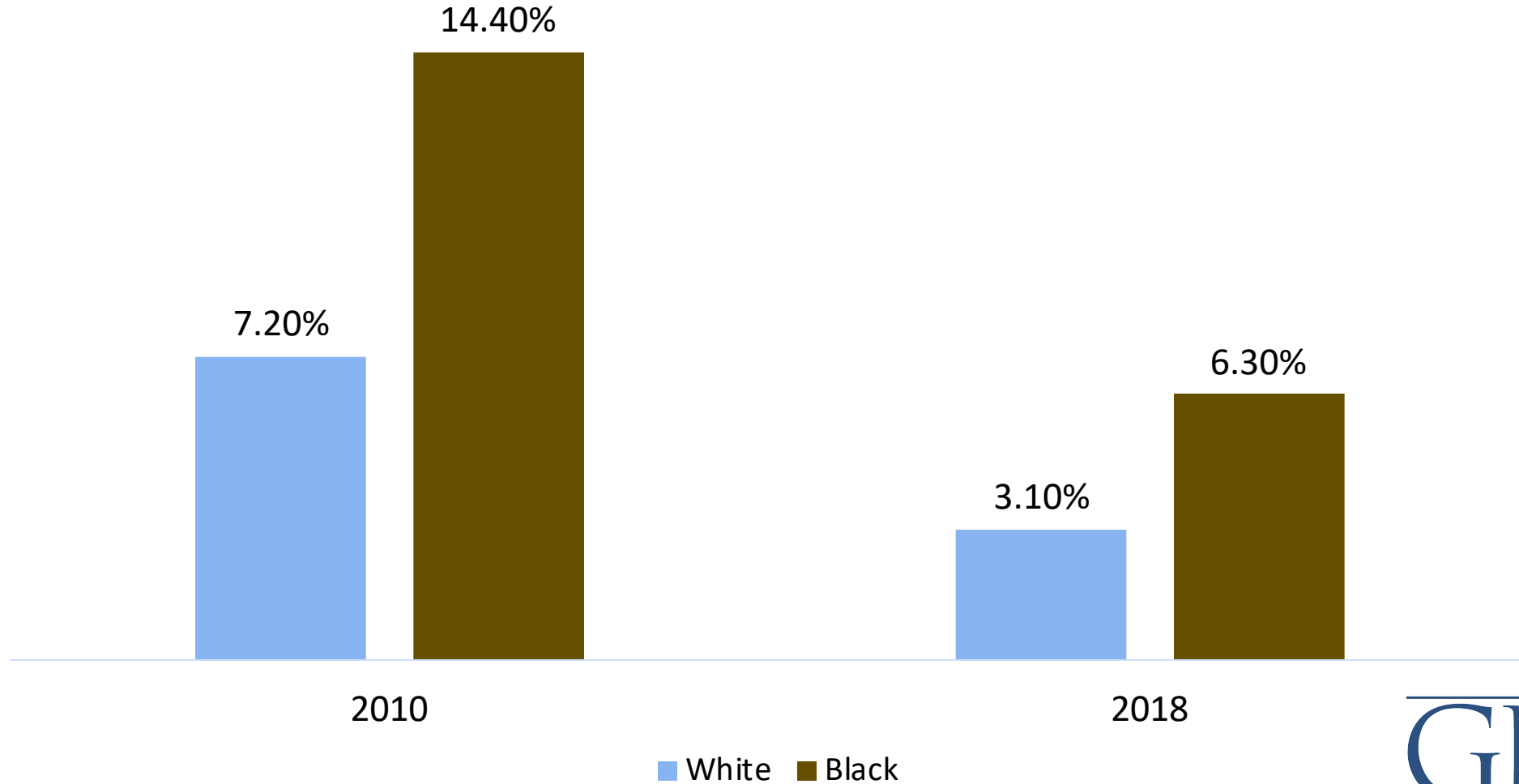
# THE WHOLE SAFETY NET MUST BE IN TACT

Trend in Georgia's SNAP Participation



# METRO ATLANTA UNEMPLOYMENT

Recession recovery is uneven, as gaps persist  
Unemployment rates by race, 2010 & 2018



# ESSENTIAL WORKFORCE IN GEORGIA

ESSENTIAL  
WORKFORCE  
(STATE  
ESTIMATES)

	All Workers	All Frontline Industries	Grocery, Convenience, and Drug Stores	Public Transit	Trucking, Warehouse, and Postal Service	Building Cleaning Services	Health Care	Child Care and Social Services
All Workers (16+)	4,714,156	915,471	219,838	19,236	125,776	53,472	417,642	79,507
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Female	48.2	63.9	53.1	30.9	23.4	52.2	79.7	90.3
Full/Part-time								
Full-time	80.4	77.6	63.7	88.3	91.2	66.0	84.1	65.7
Part-time	19.6	22.4	36.3	11.7	8.8	34.0	15.9	34.3
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>								
White	55.0	48.2	49.7	44.2	41.9	40.4	50.9	46.5
Black	30.6	40.9	37.4	51.0	49.7	31.1	40.3	43.8
Hispanic	9.0	6.2	7.1	2.8	5.4	24.9	3.8	6.1
AAPI	4.7	3.9	5.1	2.0	2.4	2.1	4.2	2.8
Other	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.8
Foreign Born	13.9	12.2	12.6	6.9	10.6	29.1	10.8	10.5
Education Level								
LTHS	9.7	8.2	12.8	5.4	11.7	23.0	3.5	6.0
HS	25.5	27.4	36.6	38.7	43.1	41.0	16.3	23.9
Some college	31.1	36.5	34.1	37.8	35.2	25.6	39.8	35.3
College	21.1	17.1	12.0	11.5	7.8	8.2	22.9	22.2
Advanced	12.6	10.7	4.5	6.6	2.2	2.3	17.5	12.5
Age 50+	31.1	31.8	24.7	42.1	35.9	33.4	33.3	33.3
Home Ownership	64.2	62.2	57.7	68.7	61.9	50.7	65.8	61.9
Public Transit to Commute to Work	2.1	2.1	2.5	3.7	1.3	4.9	1.7	2.7
Compensation and Benefits								
Below poverty line	7.6	8.2	11.9	5.3	5.0	17.1	5.5	11.9
<200% poverty line	23.2	25.3	33.5	16.1	20.8	45.2	18.7	32.9
No health insurance	15.7	14.6	17.6	7.4	18.5	40.8	8.3	17.4
Family Responsibilities								
Child in home	37.1	36.7	36.3	33.6	32.5	38.9	37.6	39.0
Senior (age 65+) in home	13.4	14.2	15.4	17.1	13.4	12.7	13.5	16.3





# STATE POLICY RESPONSES TO DATE





# STATE POLICY RESPONSES: SNAP (formerly food stamps)

- ✓ Increased SNAP benefits to the maximum for all households
- ✓ Extended renewals for SNAP by 6 months
- ✓ Suspended all work reporting requirements for SNAP participants

More information: [www.gateway.ga.gov](http://www.gateway.ga.gov)



# STATE POLICY RESPONSES: CAPS (child care assistance)

- ✓ Suspended work reporting requirements for CAPS families
- ✓ Established a hotline to connect the essential workforce to child care options

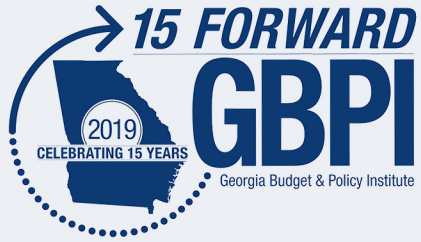
More information: [www.qualityrated.org](http://www.qualityrated.org)



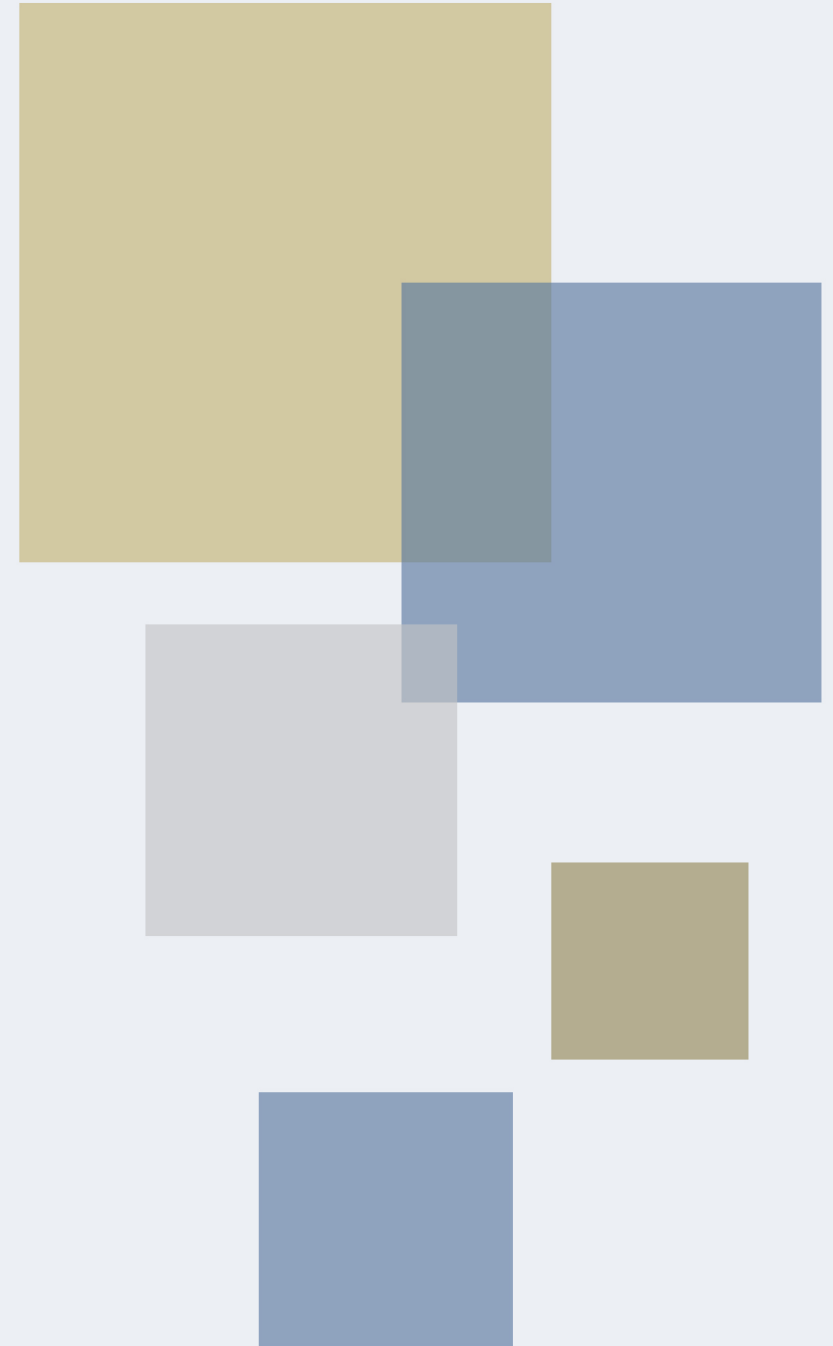
# STATE POLICY RESPONSES: UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

- ✓ Mandated employers file UI claims on behalf of workers that they anticipate laying off, which helps workers access assistance quicker and does not require claims to be filed in-person
- ✓ Suspended job search requirements for claims filed on or after March 14, 2020
- ✓ Extended eligibility to workers with reduced hours or leaving work temporarily due to illness, to care for a family member who is ill, or does not have child care as a result of their provider or school being closed during the pandemic; and
- ✓ Extended the duration of state UI payments from 14 weeks to 26 weeks

More information: [dol.Georgia.gov](https://dol.Georgia.gov)



# FEDERAL POLICY RESPONSES





# FEDERAL RESPONSE: FFCRA

## FAMILIES FIRST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE ACT

- New paid family and medical leave provisions for small and mid-size businesses
  - Mostly excludes workers in businesses that employ 500 or more
  - These provisions exclude more than 1.4 million Metro Atlanta workers
- \$1B in administrative funds for unemployment insurance (\$31M for Georgia)
  - Designed as a grant, Georgia's DOL will have to commit to easing access to the program to be eligible for the administrative help (i.e. establish alternative filing options).

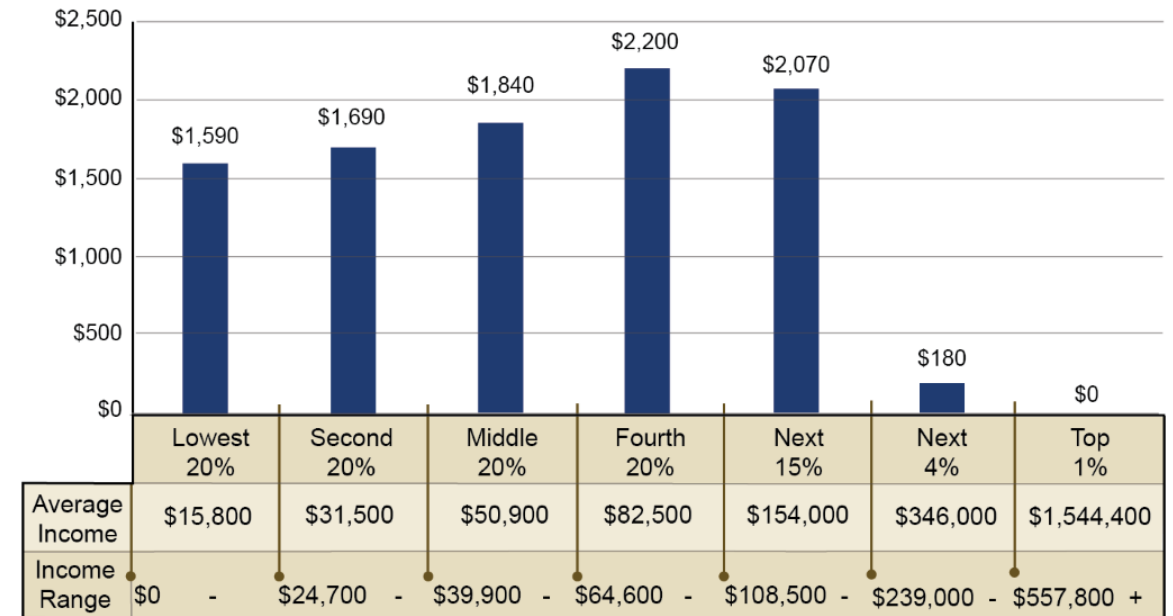
# FEDERAL RESPONSE: CARES ACT

## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

### Recovery Rebates

- Provides significant direct payments, known as “recovery rebates.”
- One-time payments based on prior year income, requiring people to have filed a 2019 or 2018 return to automatically get the rebate.
- The rebate amounts on average will be \$1,200 per adult and \$500 per dependent aged 16 years or younger.
- The rebate amount is calculated on a sliding scale in an effort to target relief to low and middle-income families. Thus the amount is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income over \$150,000 for married couples, \$75,000 for singles, and \$112,500 for single parents.
- It is important to note that the eligibility outlined in the Act leaves out older, dependent children, and ITIN filers, those who do not have a social security number and instead file and pay taxes through an ITIN number.

*Average Rebate in Stimulus Bill for Georgians*





# FEDERAL RESPONSE: CARES ACT

## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

### Unemployment Insurance

The bill establishes **3 new UI programs** that will supplement state programs:

Program Established by CARES Act	Elements
Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA)	Provides help for workers that don't qualify for the usual state unemployment insurance, including <b>self-employed people, independent contractors, gig workers</b> The duration of PUA is 39 weeks, through December 31, 2020.
Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC)	Through July 31, 2020, all regular state UI and PUA claimants will receive their usual UI payments <b>plus an additional \$600 per week.</b>
Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)	Extends the duration of regular state UI by an additional <b>13 weeks.</b> With Georgia's recent expansion from 14 week to 26 weeks, <b>workers may be eligible for a total of 39 weeks with PEUC</b>

These provisions in the CARES Act will boost unemployment compensation by **\$2.7 billion** for laid-off Georgians, with an additional **255,000 workers** projected to benefit from the federal programs.





# FEDERAL RESPONSE: CARES ACT

## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

### Dislocated Worker National Reserve (DWNR) Funds

- The bill includes \$345 million in new funding for the DWNR which pass through WIOA
- The national grants to support training and career services for workers who have lost their jobs due to CoVid-19 in the form of TA or funds for demonstration projects
- Currently unclear on the size of grants and how/when the application for funds will become available



# FEDERAL RESPONSE: CARES ACT

## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY

### Layoff aversion strategies for small businesses and nonprofits:

- Loans to businesses and nonprofits, to support payroll, insurance premiums, rent, and other costs incurred during the crisis.
- The inclusion of nonprofit organizations in the loans provision is critical to workforce providers' and human service organizations capacity to continue to serve clients during this time of crisis.
- Providing services means service providers are having to help clients in new ways – often without access to national or state grant funding to provide services like trying to access unemployment claims or meet reporting requirements associated with SNAP or TANF

☰

**TIME** [SUBSCRIBE](#)

[CORONAVIRUS BRIEF](#) [FLATTENING THE CURVE](#) [WEARING MASKS](#) [SHOPPING SAFELY](#) [NEWSLETTER](#)

**COVID-19**

**U.S. States Turn to Cash Reserves as COVID-19 Strains Budgets**

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**As virus spreads, so does gloomy outlook for Georgia budget**



TAX FOUNDATION

April 7, 2020

State Rainy Day Funds and the COVID-19 Crisis

THE FUTURE OF FINANCE

**State Budget Fallout: 'A Hurricane That Hits All Over the Country'**

The revenue drop from COVID-19 is barely starting to show up in official figures, but already furloughs and major shortfalls are common in state and local governments around the country. The pain may be sudden, but it could last for years.

ALAN GREENBLATT, SENIOR STAFF WRITER | APRIL 9, 2020 | ANALYSIS

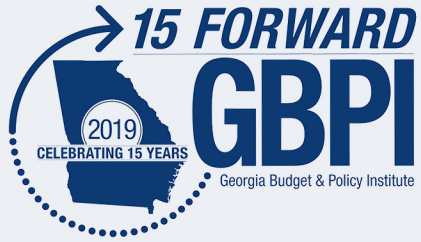
# REVENUE

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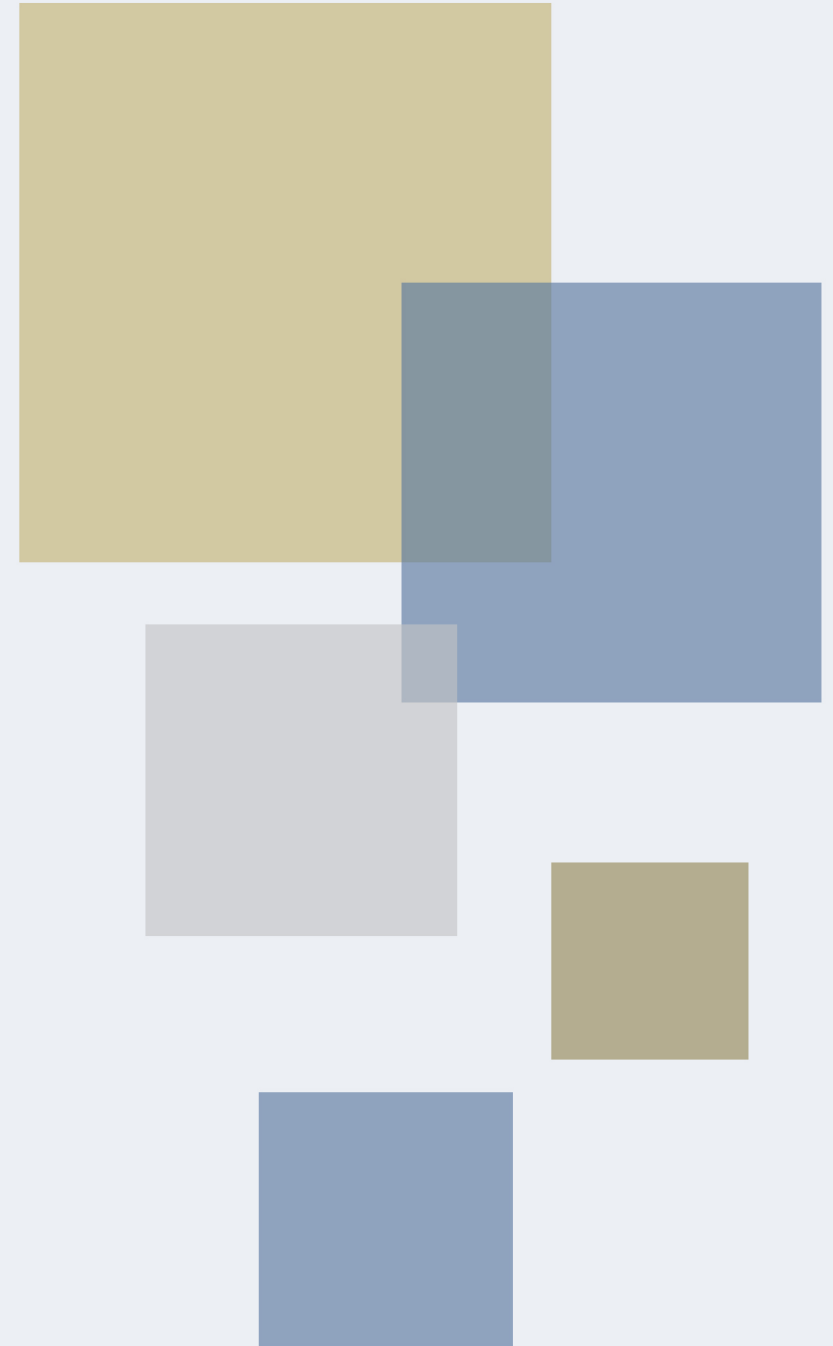


# CARES ACT RELIEF TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

- **Coronavirus Relief Fund = \$150 billion. Portions to populous local governments, tribes. Treasury must release within 30 days of enactment.**
- **Education Stabilization Fund = \$30 billion. Mostly based on share of Title I, Pell students.**



# CALL TO ACTION: AN EQUITY-DRIVEN RELIEF FRAMEWORK



Novel coronavirus' impact on businesses and residents in our region is **unprecedented.**

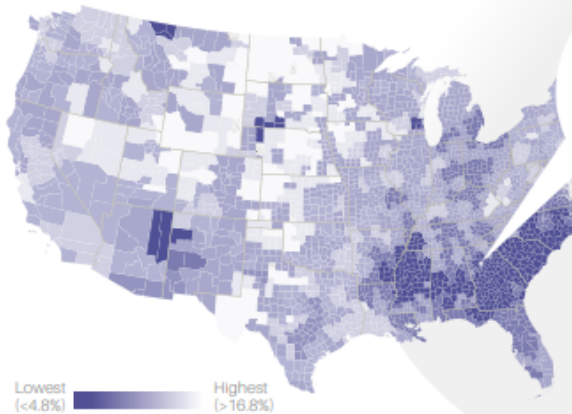
The fallout has further **exacerbated the inadequacies and inequities** within our systems, causing an even greater toll on individuals and the regional economy.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 there were **stark disparities** across Metro Atlanta:

## Regional Workforce Initiative for Metro Atlanta

Advance economic mobility to promote a competitive Metro Atlanta economy by creating an accessible, holistic, and responsive regional workforce system

Upward mobility- the opportunity to "climb the economic ladder" during one's lifetime-varies substantially across the US



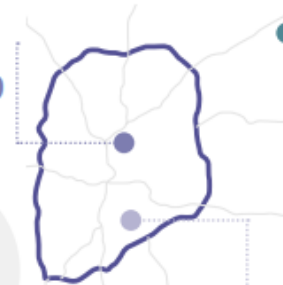
%s refer to individual ability to move from bottom to top quintile of income distribution in his/her life



Nearly half of Atlanta's households earn an annual income that falls below the annualized living wage

Ansley Park:  
**\$100,969**  
Median household income, annual

**7 miles apart** difference in implied hourly wage of **\$41.11**



Thomasville Heights:  
**\$15,455**  
Median household income, annual

City of Lawrenceville:  
**\$43,339**  
Median household income, annual

**5 miles apart** difference in implied hourly wage of **\$23.37**

City of Grayson:  
**\$91,964**  
Median household income, annual

### ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



**46%** of Atlantans cannot pay for a **\$400 emergency** with cash, check or debit

**14%** cannot pay at all

Homeownership rates in Atlanta vary significantly by race/ethnicity

**<50%** Black & Latinx residents

**63%** All residents

**75%** White residents



# WORKFORCE PRINCIPLES FOR METRO ATLANTA COVID-19 RELIEF

*REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE*

Georgia is expected to receive billions of dollars in federal relief over the coming months due to the impact of COVID-19. Hundreds of millions of those dollars will ultimately be distributed to local communities, especially those located within the Metro Atlanta region.

## **It isn't enough for recovery to look like pre-COVID19.**

The speed at which individuals and the economy recovers from COVID-19 will be determined by how effectively we implement and utilize stimulus resources. With a focus on equity, outcomes will be greater for the entire region, for minorities and underserved populations, and for the region as a whole.





# WORKFORCE PRINCIPLES FOR METRO ATLANTA COVID-19 RELIEF

*REGIONAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE*

As regional and local leaders develop plans that will leverage these funds, they should consider the following principles to ensure workers of color are not left behind during the pandemic recession:

- **Equitable Investments** - funding should be targeted to support frontline training and employment providers embedded in communities of color
- **Equitable Access** - relief funds should support the comprehensive awareness of all eligible training providers that are providing services during this time
- **Equitable Supports** - regional emergency assistance funding is critical for training participants to ensure longer-term economic recovery (following the depletion of rapid response funds)

Our economy thrives based on how many of us are thriving in that economy; we need all members of our economy to have the ability and access to thrive.







# CALL TO ACTION

If you are interested in joining the Regional Workforce Initiative (RWI) and helping to craft race-forward strategies to address disparities in workforce:

Email: [acamardelle@gbpi.org](mailto:acamardelle@gbpi.org)

First call:

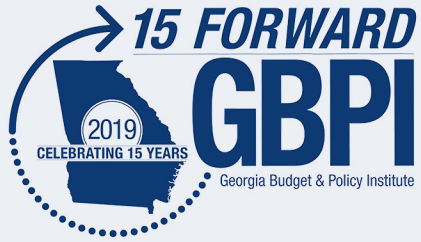
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

10am

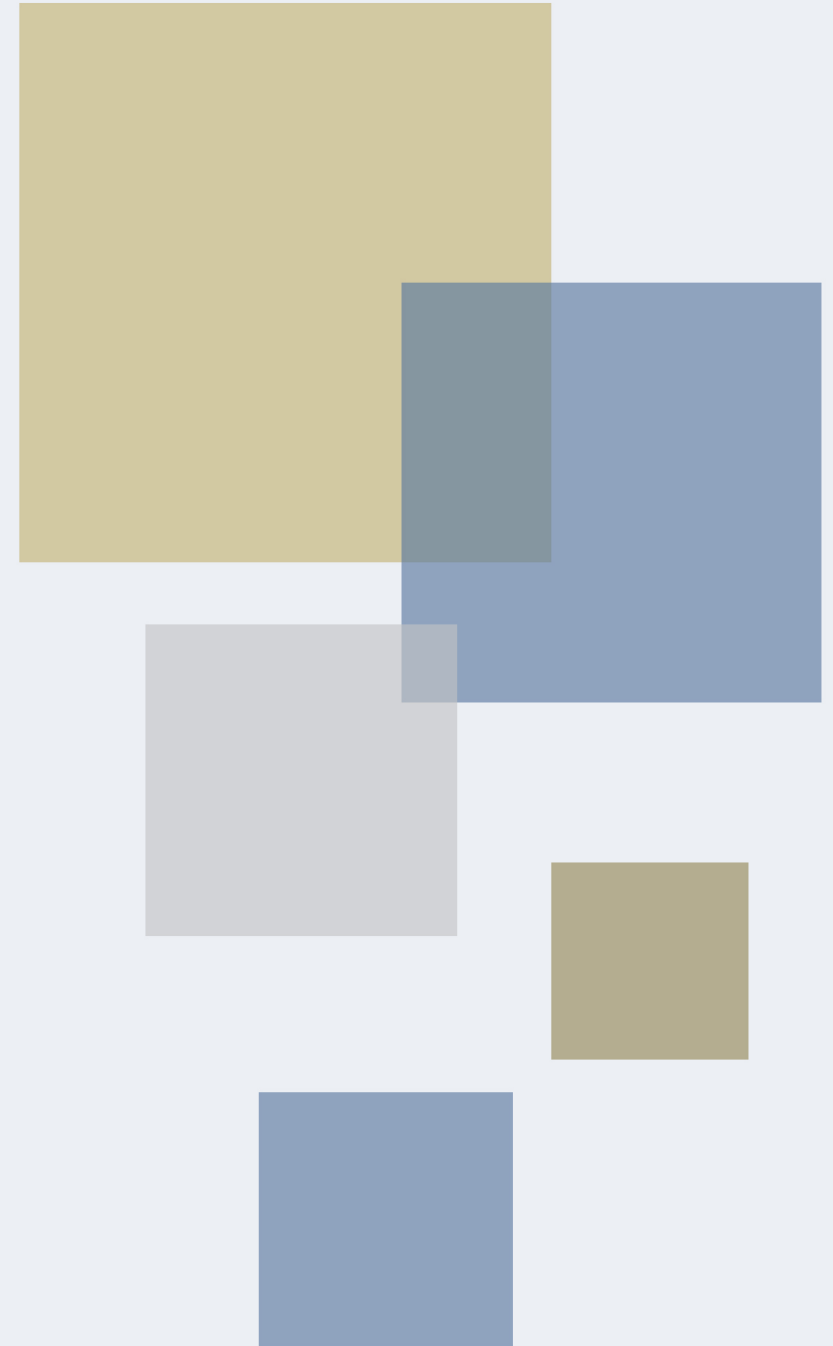
(email for zoom information)



# Q&A



# LOOKING TO THE NEXT RELIEF PACKAGE





# THE NEXT PACKAGE SHOULD...

- **Provide substantially more aid—and aid that is more open-ended—to state and local governments:**
- **Make additional investments in unemployment insurance**
- **Disburse another direct cash payment**