



The Many Overlapping Economic Crises We Face During COVID-19

Lack of Sick Time

Nearly a year into the pandemic, tens of thousands of workers still lack access to emergency paid sick time and feel the need to go to work even when they might be sick, potentially exposing others.

Record Unemployment

Massachusetts has experienced one of the steepest [declines](#) in employment of any state, with thousands of workers unemployed and thousands more leaving the workforce altogether.

Racial and Economic Inequality

Black and Latino residents of Massachusetts, who are overrepresented in frontline occupations and industries, have experienced [higher rates](#) of coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, and are [significantly more likely](#) to report lost jobs or wages, missed housing payments, or being affected by food insecurity during the pandemic. Low-income residents of all races have been affected more than higher-income residents. According to [polling](#) by MassINC, low-income households have been more than twice as likely to lose jobs or income during the pandemic, and while higher-income jobs have returned much more quickly, lower-paid jobs are still largely missing.”

Hunger

More than 1 million people in Massachusetts, including 1 in 5 children, are now struggling to get enough to eat, the highest increase in residents facing food insecurity of all states, according to [data](#) from Feeding America. More funding for food assistance programs is urgently needed to get families through the pandemic.

Evictions

Hundreds of millions of additional dollars are needed to provide housing assistance to the tens of thousands of families facing eviction in the coming months, and prevent a homelessness crisis that will fuel the spread of the coronavirus and cause lasting harm to families.

Transportation Cuts

The MBTA and regional transit authorities are cutting service commuter rail, subway, bus, and ferry service, when our public transportation systems should be running frequent service that allows for social distancing, and making investments that will prevent traffic congestion from returning when the pandemic ends.

Delay of K-12 Education Investments

Low-income students need the hundreds of millions in state education funding that was promised to them in the Student Opportunity Act this year. Now more than ever, students need the smaller classes, social-emotional supports, and additional counselors, nurses, and social workers the Student Opportunity Act was meant to support.

Child Care System In Crisis

Child care centers have lost more than \$250 million each month in private revenue during the spring shutdown and now face added costs to keep their children and staff safe.

Higher Education Layoffs

Our public colleges are laying off hundreds of workers who provide critical services to students, when they should be focused on ensuring that laid-off workers have affordable paths to higher education to get on a new career path.

Recovering from these crises will require significant new state revenue. It's time for multi-millionaires and large, profitable corporations to pay their fair share to support our economic recovery.