

# John

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“John” is a young man who lost both of his restaurant jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He supports his wife, “Jessica” and their two small children (ages: 3 and 6). He was the sole provider in the family so the family currently has zero income.

John is not eligible for unemployment benefits or the federal rebate, even though John had filed his 2018 taxes with an ITIN.

The family is unable to pay for rent, food, groceries, their phone bill and utilities which has been a huge cause of stress in the family. Additionally, John's wife has a diagnosed nutritional deficiency that is caused by her past trauma and it requires the family buy expensive nutritional supplements that she was prescribed. They are no longer able to buy these necessities.

John's wife also recently had to go to the hospital because of difficulty breathing and was diagnosed with pneumonia and tested positive for COVID-19. John has also started to show COVID-19 symptoms as well. They are unable to leave the home to look for food at food pantries because of their quarantine and cannot afford to pay for groceries and necessities delivered because they have no income.



# Susana

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"Susana" is a young mother of two boys, ages 8 and 4, who suffered horrific domestic violence at the hands of her boys' father. On several occasions, police were called to their Chelsea home but Susana was too afraid to be honest with them about what was happening. Finally, after a particularly brutal incident, she told the police that she wanted a restraining order and the police ordered him to leave. She moved to a different town with her two boys and is now rebuilding their life. Before COVID-19, Susana worked for a small company doing mostly secretarial work. Susana has filed her taxes with ITIN for several years, ever since she began working here in the US. Because of COVID-19, the company where she worked has closed and she was laid off.



Without a social security number, she is not eligible for unemployment benefits and she is not eligible for the recovery rebate.

Susana was able to scrape together enough money to pay her rent for April, but does not know how she will pay rent in May. Susana is extremely hesitant to pursue any benefits from the government, but she has been forced to visit food pantries in order to have food for her children. Susana tries to stay positive for the boys, but admits that at night she hides in the bathroom and cries.

# Michael

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“Michael” is a young man from Honduras who is seeking a green card as a Special Immigrant Juvenile, based on the severe abuse, abandonment, and neglect he suffered at the hands of his mother and father. Marvin suffered sexual abuse from a young age, and homelessness in his home country and in the U.S. Even though he has very strong immigration relief, because of the processing delays, it will be years before Michael is eligible to apply for a green card or an employment authorization card, and therefore cannot get a social security number.



Despite a lifetime of hardships, Michael has worked to better himself and was supporting his partner and young child by working hard at a construction company. Michael was the sole provider for his family. Michael's construction company shut down because of COVID-19 and Michael was left without a job, not eligible for unemployment benefits, or the recovery rebate. Soon after, Michael's partner started showing symptoms and tested positive for COVID-19. Michael began to show symptoms soon after and recently tested positive for COVID-19 as well. Though Michael's partner seemed to be slowly recuperating, Michael's health is deteriorating. The family has no income and no way to meet their basic necessities. They are unable to pay for rent, food, diapers, or basic things for their young child. Recently, because of a roof leak, their apartment flooded and the family has no way to fix the leak or recuperate their lost possessions. Because they are quarantined, they can't access food pantries and rely on his partner's elderly grandparents who have, on a few occasions, dropped off food.

# Rosa

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"Rosa" was forced to flee her home country with her 9 year old daughter, "Gabriela", last year. Rosa was devastated that she had to leave her 5 children behind, but knew that she needed to bring Gabriela with her because of Gabriela's special needs. Here in the US, she was diagnosed with a severe form of down syndrome. Gabriela does not speak and has a very limited ability to communicate, even non-verbally. Gabriela's father, in their home country, believed that Gabriela needed to be killed because of her special needs. Rosa brought Gabriela with her to the US to save both their lives. Rosa was working at a local restaurant and at a local bakery until both businesses were closed as a result of COVID-19. Because she does not have a social security number, she is not eligible for unemployment or the recovery rebate. She is currently staying with a family friend, who is wheelchair bound and relies on Rosa for daily care. Even though she cares for him on a daily basis, she still has to pay her share of the rent.

Despite the stay-at-home recommendation, Rosa continued to go and search for work because she has no other way to support herself. Rosa is terrified of catching the virus, but is more terrified of not being able to pay for food and rent.

