

## TALKING POINTS: Why we need cash to people along with employer-based relief

- △ The global economy is in a recession that is predicted to be the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. We need all of the tools at our disposal.
- △ While there are many important programs available, putting money in people's wallets does the most good for the most people in these uncertain times.
- △ It's important to keep businesses afloat, but it's also important to keep people afloat so they can afford their basic needs. We need to account for both.
- △ Solutions that focus only on employers will inevitably leave some people out and leave some people short. We must cast a wider net and help everyone with extraordinary expenses.
- △ Even before the coronavirus, many households earned low wages that barely covered basic needs. About 40% said they couldn't afford a \$400 emergency expense. This *is* that \$400 emergency, day after day.
- △ Payroll support and unemployment insurance (UI) will replace some of people's pre-pandemic wages, but many workers, especially in the middle class and some gig workers, won't get full wage replacement. And many are now facing rising costs of living such as covering health insurance, medical costs and child care.
- △ As significant as the \$1,200 one-time payments may feel to some in Washington, these checks are meager compared to the suffering in the country.
- △ The average month of rent for Americans is about the same as this payment, so as soon as people receive them they'll be gone again.
- △ [Early research](#) shows that this week's stimulus payments are being used to buy immediate essentials: food, medical payments, and gas. Many corporations and industries got bailed out for the year but individuals got bailed out a month.
- △ The next relief package must include a cash plan that is:
  - Bigger: at the scale of the crisis.
  - Regular: delivering help as people need it.
  - Lasting: at least until the economy recovers.

## POLLING

Polling shows direct cash payments are widely popular. A [recent poll by Navigator Research](#) found that direct cash payments are supported by 88% of all voters including 91% of Democratic voters, 83% of independent voters and 87% of Republican voters.

Along with relief to small businesses and unemployment insurance, direct cash payments are one of the most popular things Congress can do in this crisis.

**As you may know, Congress is considering various ideas that would be part of a new economic stimulus package. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each one.**

	% Support		% Overall support			
	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Total	Dem	Ind	GOP
Small business loans to cover payroll and other expenses	72	18	90	92	81	91
Increased unemployment benefits to cover laid-off workers' salaries for duration of the crisis	72	16	89	91	81	88
Direct cash payments to all Americans	76	12	88	91	83	87
Infrastructure to rebuild roads and bridges	28	42	71	75	61	68
Strong oversight of any economic package that devotes resources to big corporations	33	28	61	64	51	61
Economic relief for the oil and gas industry	17	32	49	43	45	58
More economic relief for large corporations	16	32	48	42	39	57

"2016 Trump Voters" self-report having voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Nationwide survey of 1,022 registered voters; April 3-8, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

