

# Need Help

## Keeping the Lights on?



**Power isn't a luxury – it's a necessity. But utilities are cutting off people's power in the middle of a major pandemic, just to protect their profits.**



**130,000+**

Floridians are projected to be behind on their utility bills due to COVID-19



**200,000+**

households and thousands of businesses have been disconnected from their power

The COVID-19 pandemic is causing widespread loss of wages and jobs, and these impacts are felt hardest by low-income households, communities of color, and the working poor. Floridians were suffering from high electricity bills and inefficiency long before COVID-19. Now that we're in the midst of a global crisis, we need relief now.

When applying for relief, Black and Latinx communities face language barriers and inequities in their ability to access debt relief and repayment programs, including a lack of required documentation.

# 49%

of Latinx Americans say they or someone in their household has taken a pay cut or lost a job – or both – because of the COVID-19 outbreak (LULAC)

# 2x

COVID-19 is twice as rampant among Black and Latinx Floridians as it is among white residents (Palm Beach Post)

# 3x

The death rate among Black adults age 65 and older is about three times that of whites in the same age group.<sup>1</sup>

No family should have to choose among essential life-sustaining goods and services during a national time of crisis. As our state leadership responds to COVID-19 and the widespread economic devastation it has caused to Florida families, we need our leaders to enact protections to help residents keep the lights on. The majority of other states have enacted protections against power disconnection or set aside large sums of money for debt relief, but our leaders have left us in the dark. Florida's families are counting on the Governor and the state Legislature to do the right thing as we all work to overcome this crisis.

Find resources, take action, and share your story by scanning the QR code below.

<sup>1</sup>  
<https://news.fsu.edu/news/2020/08/31/study-finds-that-covid-19-is-hitting-older-black-and-latinx-persons-hardest/>

