

Day 10 - COVID-19 and ALICE

When the pandemic erupted across the country in March, the most vulnerable in our community were the first and hardest hit. Not only has COVID-19 disproportionately affected low-income neighborhoods, the economic impact of the shutdown hit them the hardest as well. From custodians and maintenance staff, to service workers and hospitality workers, the wave of layoffs seared through the spring, summer and into fall without clear indications of a recovery. Many of the workers who held these jobs live as [ALICE](#), just [one paycheck away from economic instability](#), without employer-provided health care during a deadly pandemic.

In fact, many of those deemed “essential workers” celebrated for their sacrifices live as ALICE, [dependent on public transportation to get to work](#). In a moment of global crisis, the people who occupied these jobs kept many of our communities afloat when their own struggled. Today’s activity questions why that is.

Today’s Challenge:

OPTION 1: Listen to [Robert Reich from NowThis News](#) on unemployment and essential Workers during COVID-19. (6 minutes)

OPTION 2: Read [NPR’s comic](#) taken from interviews with essential workers who fall under the ALICE category. (8 minutes)

OPTION 3: Read about [the inequities of job loss and recovery](#) amid the COVID-19 pandemic. (20 minutes)