COVID Comparison

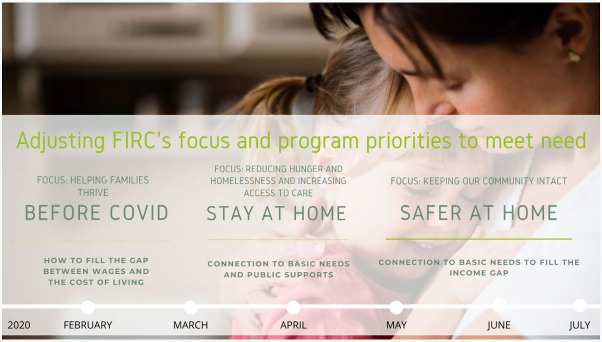
Meeting the Changing Needs of the Community

Two-thirds of Summit County's workforce has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The following report will give you a snapshot of how our services have adapted to meet the changing needs of our community. Since the majority of jobs in our community are related to tourism, the Safe at Home and Safer at Home restrictions have a significant impact on businesses' ability to stay open and employees' ability to afford basic needs.

hope
COVID RESPONSE: COMPARISON OF STAGES
Strong Families.
Strong Community.
FIRC Family & Intercultural Resource Center

> "Asking for help is never easy, but knowing that FIRC is here for us when we need it the most has given us strength to get through these hard times."
>
> FIRC CLIENT

STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG COMMUNITY.



Adjusting FIRC's focus and program priorities to meet need

FOCUS: HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

BEFORE COVID

HOW TO FILL THE GAP BETWEEN WAGES AND THE COST OF LIVING

FOCUS: REDUCING HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AND INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE

STAY AT HOME

CONNECTION TO BASIC NEEDS AND PUBLIC SUPPORTS

FOCUS: KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY INTACT

SAFER AT HOME

CONNECTION TO BASIC NEEDS TO FILL THE INCOME GAP

Families are saving $350 a month in groceries by using the food pantry. This allows people to put their savings towards housing costs.

BRECKENRIDGE
STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG COMMUNITY

Supportive Services: Housing & Food Assistance

monthly snapshot

PRE-COVID

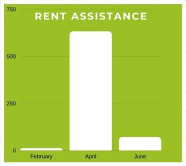
-Connection to basic needs.
-Budgeting and goal setting

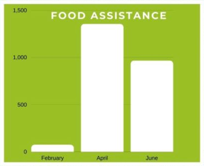
STAY AT HOME

-Connection to basic needs.
-Connection to public assistance programs

SAFER AT HOME

-Connection to basic needs.
-Provide connection to resources to put money towards covering rent





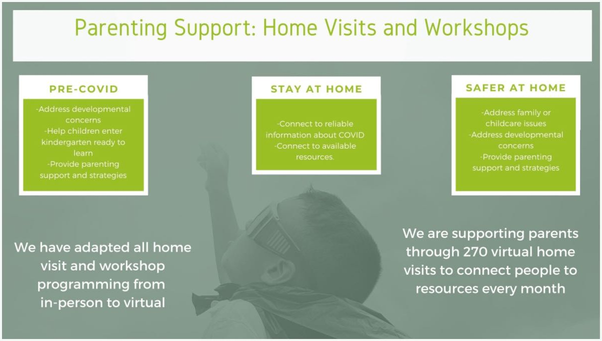
> Now that our community has reopened, parents are being forced to decide if paying for childcare makes sense with their reduced employment hours. Many have no childcare options at all – and the uncertainty of the upcoming school schedule is weighing on

working families considering the vast majority of jobs here are related to the service industry, making working from home an option that does not exist.

”

BRIANNE SNOW, FIRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STRONG FAMILIES.
STRONG COMMUNITY.



Parenting Support: Home Visits and Workshops

PRE-COVID

-Address developmental concerns
-Help children enter kindergarten ready to learn
-Provide parenting support and strategies

STAY AT HOME

-Connect to reliable information about COVID
-Connect to available resources.

SAFER AT HOME

-Address family or childcare issues
-Address developmental concerns
-Provide parenting support and strategies

We have adapted all home visit and workshop programming from in-person to virtual

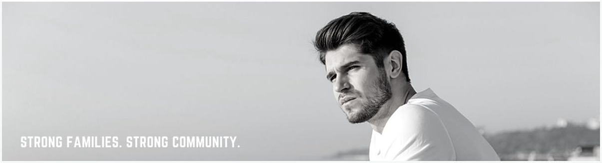
We are supporting parents through 270 virtual home visits to connect people to resources every month

“

Even working remotely you can hear the sighs of relief coming from clients when they realize they dont have to begin the mental health journey by themselves.

”

- CASEY, FIRC MENTAL HEALTH NAVIGATOR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Access to Care: Connection to Medical and Mental Health

monthly snapshot

PRE-COVID

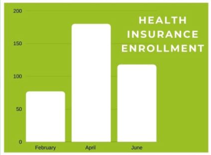
-Health Insurance Enrollment
-Mental Health Navigation
-Peer-to-peer support for Latina women (ALMA)

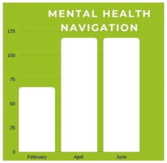
STAY AT HOME

-Health Insurance Enrollment
-Mental Health Navigation
-Peer-to-peer support for Latina women (ALMA)
-Connection to SNAP and public assistance

SAFER AT HOME

-Health Insurance Enrollment
-Enrollment services for SNAP and other public health services
-Mental Health Navigation
-Peer-to-peer support for Latina women (ALMA)
81 clients





25 percent increase across Mental Health programs

> During the Great Recession, the revenue from the thrift stores allowed FIRC to be a stable nonprofit in the community. Now, the store operations are so limited that they are costing FIRC money. This is the first time we haven't been able to rely on the stores to help us fill the funding gaps or create supports the community needs.

BRIANNE SNOW, FIRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STRONG FAMILIES. STRONG COMMUNITY.

Summit Thirft & Treasure Thrift Stores

monthly snapshot

PRE-COVID

-Two stores offering affordable shopping and recycling options for the community
-Consistent income generator contributing to programs and operations

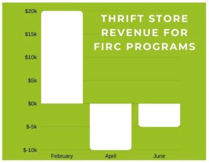
STAY AT HOME

-Two stores shut down completely.
-No revenue coming in and losing money on building expenses.

SAFER AT HOME

-Dillon store open for appointment shopping
-Breckenridge store open for donations
-Trying to provide clothing essentials as a basic need.
-Some revenue coming in.

The Dillon store is open for appointment only shopping. The Breckenridge store is being used for food storage and clothing donations.



LESSONS LEARNED FROM PANDEMIC

COMMUNITY SAFETY NET

People are living paycheck to paycheck. If businesses shut down instantly, FIRC is the safety net.

The Spanish-speaking community was not getting accurate information about COVID. FIRC became an information hub for the community. Online visits were up 700%.

Many people in our community do not qualify for unemployment or other government benefits.

The pandemic is causing a rise in isolation, depression, substance use, family issues and anxiety. Mental health supports are key.

MOVING FORWARD

UNCERTAINTIES

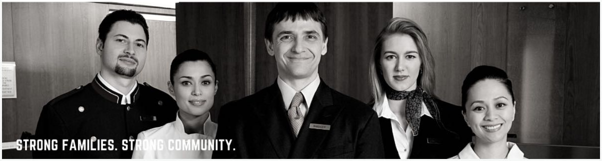
People are paying 60%+ of income on housing. Pre-Covid Average Income a month was $2,409 per month. Now we are seeing $2,171. 10% decrease.

If we go back to Safe at Home model, FIRC cannot sustain the same numbers without Town and Government support.

Parents unable to work full schedules with lack of childcare and fluxuating school schedules.

> “The average wage per job in Summit County is $29,000, which has decreased to $19,508 during the pandemic. This isn’t even close to sustaining the high cost of living in our community.”

- BRIANNE SNOW, FIRC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.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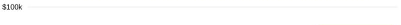
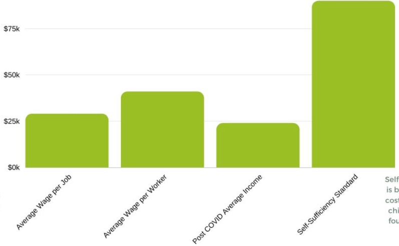
INCOME POST COVID

ADJUSTING BUDGETS TO NEW WORK ENVIRONMENTS





Pre-COVID: The average wage per worker is higher than the average wage per job because most people work 2.5 jobs.

Self-Sufficiency Standard is based on how much it costs for basic needs and childcare for a family of four in Summit County.

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