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### Dispensary of Hope is the New Hope

Losing jobs and health insurance, frequent hospitalizations, declining health, and struggling to keep up with the healthcare demand are all significant impacts of coronavirus. Millions of Americans have suffered financially and mentally during this pandemic. Some have been laid off, some have been furloughed, but many have been affected. This has been one of the greatest economic defeats our country has seen since the Great Depression.

Nearly 22 million Americans have filed for unemployment, due to being laid off from their employers (Cooper, 2020). The unemployment rate rose by 10.3 percent from January to April, which is now almost to 15 percent in the U.S. In April, the employment-population ratio dropped by almost 9 percentage points. The amount of people who had to cut down from full-time employment to part-time doubled in just one month (Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2020).

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, at least 27 million people lost their health coverage since the coronavirus began. About 20% of these people will not be able to participate in alternative health coverages, such as Medicaid or subsidized health plans through the Affordable Care Act (Herman, 2020). With the amount of cancelled surgeries and limited doctor visits, we should prepare for the overall health of the population to decline as well (Cooper, 2020). As rates of hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes and so many other health conditions are so high, the more people are going without the proper healthcare they need for these chronic conditions, the worse the condition will get (Herman, 2020).

At this point, you are probably thinking “worsening health conditions, losing health insurance, and having little to no income: what can we do to help?” This is where you step in to help restore what coronavirus has broken. Although this is a very detrimental time for everyone, we are here to support you with resources, flexibility in patient eligibility and medications for those who can’t afford them and have lost their insurance coverage.

As millions of Americans are worrying and stressing about how they will be able to afford their medications to treat their health conditions, we can be their light in the darkness. Now, more than ever, is the time that pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, nurses, physicians and others supporting medication access programs across the country are needed to help those who need affordable medication the most.

## References

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