

# PANAID IMPACT REPORT




the center  
TEXAS CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY STUDIES

MONARCH FAMILY SERVICES

PAN AID  
YOUNG ADULT PANDEMIC AID



A photograph of three young adults (two women and one man) laughing and smiling outdoors. The man on the left is wearing glasses and a dark hoodie. The woman in the middle is wearing a yellow sweater. The woman on the right is wearing a dark jacket over a red plaid shirt. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

*“As someone who grew up in the foster care system, we didn’t really get to have those kind of people who we can call when we have financial problems. This was a very huge help.”*

## OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

In December 2020, Congress passed a COVID relief package, House Resolution 133, which included funding to support young adults who were formerly in foster care. In Texas, the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) partnered with the Texas Center of Child and Family Studies (the Center) and Monarch Family Services to launch the Young Adult Pandemic Aid Initiative, or PanAid. In 5 months, through a network of community organizations across the state, PanAid distributed nearly \$7 million in federal COVID Relief funding directly to young adult Texans who had aged out of the foster care system.

The funding was unique both in its flexibility and in allowing for assistance to young adults until their 27th birthday. Right now, financial supports for foster youth are often stringent in their requirements and end once these vulnerable young adults turn 21, leaving them to navigate a complex reality on their own. This population often leaves care without the support of a network or family and many have experienced significant hardships, including inter-generational trauma, absence of stable housing, underemployment, and lack of access to supportive services. The impact of the global pandemic exacerbated these challenges for all vulnerable populations, including youth who have aged out of care. By providing financial assistance for basic needs such as rent, groceries, utilities, transportation, and child care as well as federal pandemic relief, PanAid was an opportunity to help alleviate the impact of COVID on this often overlooked population.

*“The PanAid money I received helped me afford to care for my two young children and pay my bills. Covid had deeply affected my family and had caused me to lose my job. In addition, it has been harder to find consistent work. The PanAid money was also helpful as it allowed me to get my vehicle running again.”*

# OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

To spread the word about this opportunity to support young adults formerly in foster care, our team worked together to reach more than 165 qualifying organizations such as university programs, homeless shelters, child placing agencies, and transitional living programs. Within a month of the launch date, the Center and Monarch Family Services hosted two FAQ webinars to answer questions and encourage further applications.

Community partners were asked to spread the word and encourage eligible young people to apply. The community partners were supplied with an outreach toolkit containing social media, texting, and email templates where the primary outreach message was “Share, Encourage, and Apply.”

*“I was able to pay my bills and avoid becoming homeless.”*

*“It made a difference in my life by taking some bills off my hands for a little bit. It helped me & my 3 children keep a roof over our heads.”*

## APPLICANTS HEARD OF PAN Aid THROUGH...<sup>1</sup>

Recipients were able to write-in responses in the “other” category. Some listed specific organizations and individuals. Other common responses were previous CASA volunteer advocates, current or previous caseworkers, Preparation for Adult Living coordinators, former foster families or affiliates, community nonprofits, and schools and college campuses.

**153**

FACEBOOK/INSTAGRAM AD

**772**

ORGANIZATION

**618**

FAMILY/FRIEND

**822**

OTHER

## SOCIAL MEDIA

A social media campaign including organic and paid branded PanAid graphics, Instagram reels, stories, and accompanying blogs launched on all the Center and Monarch Family Services social channels including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The campaign began on July 22, 2021 and ended September 17, 2021.

THE PAN AID AD CAMPAIGN REACHED  
**729,786 TEXANS**  
**WITH 1,564,137 IMPRESSIONS**



# FUNDING RECIPIENTS

**2,148**

YOUNG ADULTS RECEIVED  
PAN Aid MONEY

**\$2,715,840**  
IN PANDEMIC RELIEF PAYMENTS

**\$6,442,937**  
IN REIMBURSED EXPENSES

The Center and Monarch received 3,090 applications. Of these, 844 young adults were not approved for funding by DFPS. The small discrepancy between the number of applicants approved and the number of applicants who received funding represents young adults that could not be reached after the approval process or the few young adults who received more than one payment from this funding.

## TYPICAL REASONS FOR INELIGIBILITY

outside of the  
target age group

did not age out  
of foster care

no records or not in  
DFPS custody

immigration  
status

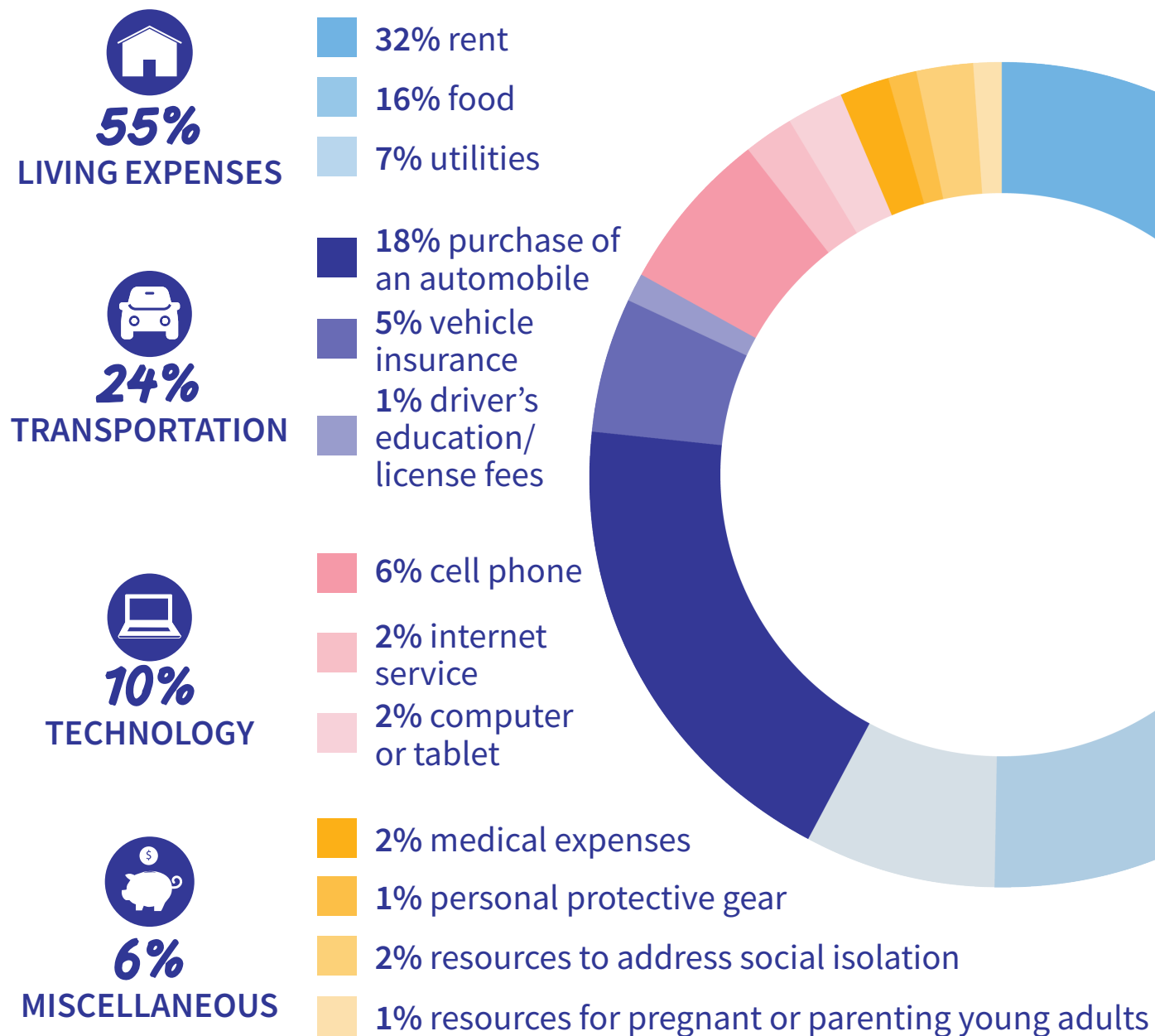
*"Thank you so much for helping me and all the other young adults. Most of us don't have anyone we can turn to when we are struggling financially and it's one of our main stresses in life."*



*"Without the PanAid, I would have had to get a second job and continue to hold off on getting into college."*

# COVID-RELATED EXPENSES

As part of the funding process, each young adult was asked to complete an application providing information on their demographics and estimating their Covid-related expenses from April 2020 through September 2021.



Applicants were also able to write in responses describing other expenses. Common responses included:<sup>23</sup>

**CLOTHES** **BABY STUFF** **HOTEL**  
**HYGIENE** **LAUNDRY**  
**GAS** **SCHOOL** **BUS**  
**DIAPERS** **SUPPLIES** **PASS**  
**UBER/LYFT** **REPAIRS**  
**HOUSEHOLD** **CHILD CARE** **PET** **HOBBIES** **FURNITURE** **MAINTENANCE**

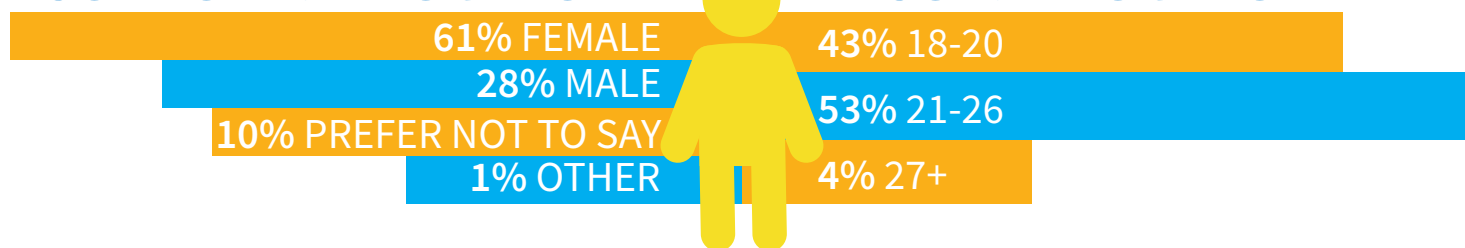




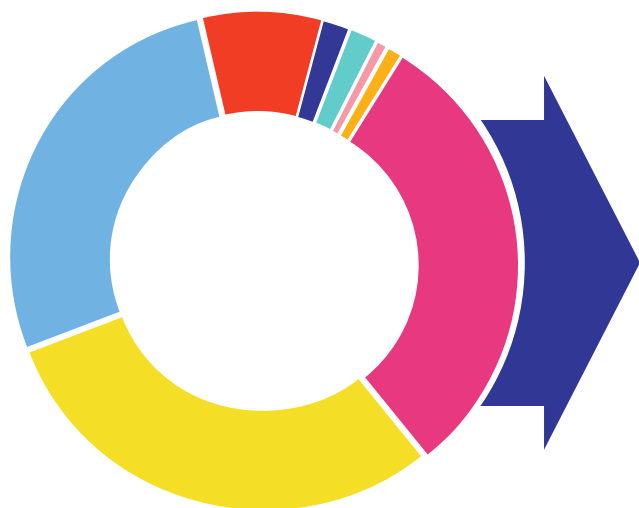
*"Thank you for your time and effort to helping the foster youth. You guys make a big difference in our lives especially for going out of your way to make a difference possible. Thank you for working with foster youth and understanding our situation. With much love from all of us."*

## GENDER OF RECIPIENTS

## AGE OF RECIPIENTS



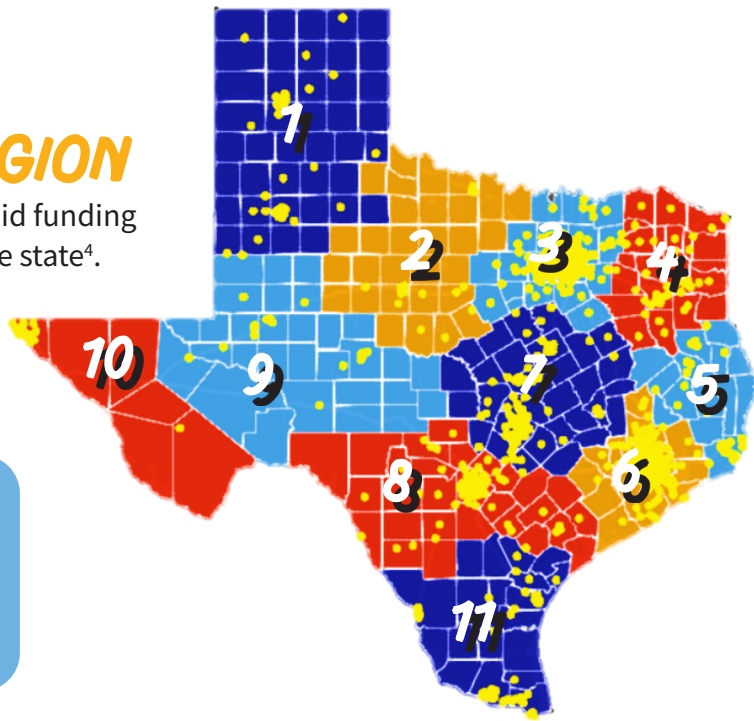
## RACE AND ETHNICITY OF RECIPIENTS



- 30% Black/African American
- 30% Latino/Hispanic
- 27% White
- 8% Multi-racial
- 2% Native American
- 2% Prefer not to say
- less than 1% Asian
- less than 1% Other

## RECIPIENTS BY REGION

Young adults who received pandemic aid funding reside in every region throughout the state<sup>4</sup>.



*"I was at a point where I was struggling to take care of myself and my four younger siblings and the Pan Aid helped so much! A little goes a long way and I'm so thankful for that!"*

OUT OF ALL RECIPIENTS  
**35% REPORTED**  
**HAVING AT LEAST ONE**  
**DEPENDENT, AND 15%**  
**HAD MORE THAN ONE**

OF THE 753 RECIPIENTS WHO  
HAVE CHILDREN  
**25% WERE**  
**YOUNGER THAN 18**  
**WHEN THEY HAD**  
**THEIR FIRST CHILD**

## EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

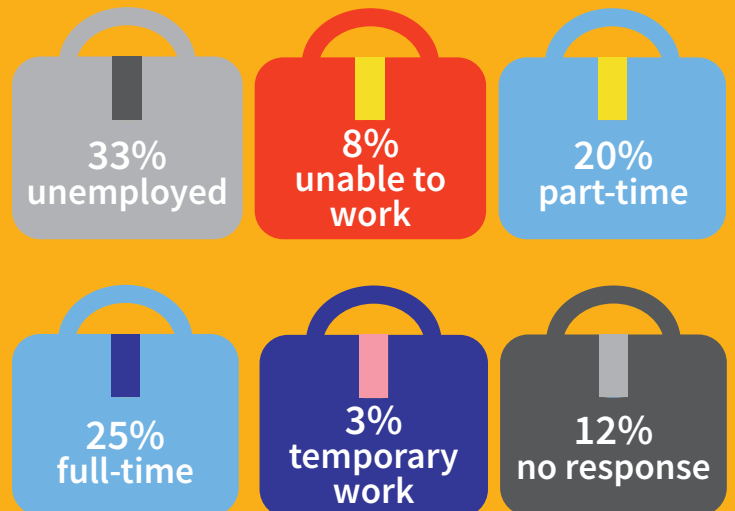
Only about half (48%) of recipients reported having some type of employment income from full-time, part-time, or temporary work.

More than three quarters of those with employment income reported making less than \$26,000 per year.

Only 12 percent of recipients reported having graduated from college or from a professional education program.

41 percent said that they were unemployed or unable to work.

18 percent reported having a disability<sup>5</sup>.



# POST-FUNDING FOLLOW-UP SURVEYS

After funds were distributed, a follow-up survey was sent to the young adults who received PanAid funding. The intent was to capture the needs and challenges of young adults who aged out of foster care and to better understand the impact of this funding on the lives of the recipients. The surveys included questions to capture areas for improvement for future funding opportunities of this nature. We received responses from 151 young adults.

## RESPONSES FROM RECIPIENTS

Out of 151 respondents, 9 reported that they had challenges with applying for PanAid funding. Several survey responses suggested more advertising and outreach in the future to connect to more young adults and give more time to apply. Most recipients said that the application process was easy.

In an open-ended question, young adults were asked to describe their biggest ongoing financial challenges<sup>6</sup>. Housing, bills, and transportation were the most common responses. More than 10 percent reported that access to food was their biggest challenge.

## YOUNG ADULTS' BIGGEST FINANCIAL CHALLENGE

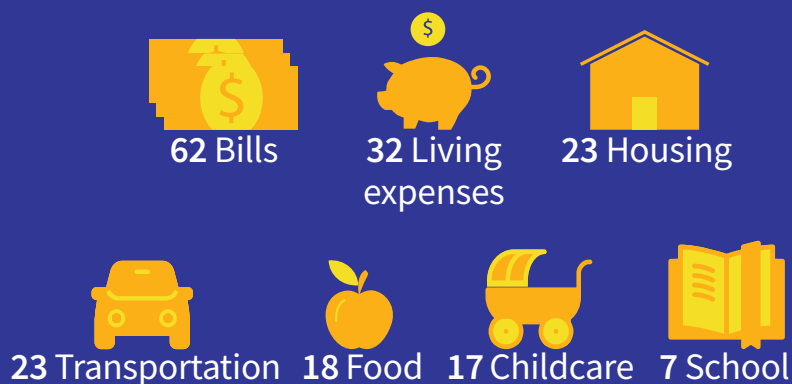


OF YOUNG ADULTS WHO COMPLETED THE SURVEY **91%** SAID THAT PANAIID MONEY MADE A **DIFFERENCE IN THEIR LIVES**

Respondents gave a mean score of 9.5 out of 10 when asked how helpful the PanAid fund was .

The PanAid recipient survey responses suggest that young adults who aged out of foster care face ongoing challenges meeting their basic needs. PanAid funds went directly toward helping meet some of these needs.

## HOW DID PANAIID MAKE A DIFFERENCE?<sup>7</sup>





# RESPONSES FROM PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that participated in PanAid application and disbursement were asked to provide feedback on our processes, the needs of former foster youth, and the perceived impact of the funding. We received feedback from 16 organizations.

The mean rating for organizations' overall satisfaction with the application and disbursement processes was 8 out of 10.

All organizations responded with that they enjoyed working with the Center and Monarch Family Services

Young adult's income stability was further challenged by Covid illnesses, employer restrictions, and lockdowns.

Lack of financial literacy, such as budgeting assistance, exacerbates income instability among this population.

Organizations noted that many young adults used these funds for housing.

## WHAT ORGANIZATIONS HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF PAN Aid FUNDING

*"Many used the funds to pay back rent and even some to pay future rent. In addition, I know of a couple that were homeless and used the funds to get housing/apartment. Thanks to these funds they had money to pay the application fee, security deposit and first couple months of rent."*

*"It was a lifeline that each one desperately needed. I've been in child welfare over 20 years. This was very time consuming, tiring, but was one of the highlight moments of my career. Being able to give money away and instantly see the tangible differences made; I would love nothing more than to do just that the rest of my career."*

## CHALLENGES TO OVERCOME

The responses from partner organizations show how this funding was greatly needed for young adults aging out of the foster care system. However, there were challenges to overcome and feedback was provided that could improve future funding efforts.

- A longer timeframe is needed for young adults to complete the application
- A longer timeframe is needed for outreach
- Need clarity on processes, expectations, program descriptions, dates, and an organized list of approved participants.

# ENDNOTES

- 1 Numbers equal more than the number of recipients because they could select all that applied.
- 2 Some of these responses were categorically similar to those listed above, but they were not explicitly given as answer choices in the application form.
- 3 The write-in answers represent 5 percent of all reported expenses. Some young adults described expenses but did not provide a dollar amount, those expenses could not be captured in the final reported dollars.
- 4 47 young adults who were awarded PanAid funding aged out of foster care in Texas but no longer live in the state.
- 5 This number reflects self-report only and does not necessarily indicate receiving any services or income related to disability.
- 6 Numbers equal more than the number of survey responses because they could list all that applied.
- 7 Numbers equal more than the number of survey responses because they could list all that applied.