Financial Trouble
Federal, state, and local governments are working to respond to the growing public health threat of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. As communities across the country are dealing with an increase in the number of reported cases, many areas may be impacted by the temporary closure of businesses, schools and other public facilities or events, and in some cases, quarantines. While these actions are necessary steps to help reduce exposures, it may bring financial uncertainty for many people who could experience a loss of income due to illness or workplace closures.

If you are experiencing or may soon experience the following situations, there is help already available:
• You have trouble paying your bills or meeting other financial obligations
• You experience a loss of income
• You think you may be targeted by a scammer

PREVENT: Price Gouging, Scams & Fraud
The Louisiana Governor declared a public health emergency which puts price gouging laws into effect. What is price gouging? The increase in prices or value for goods and services that are higher than the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services at or immediately before the time of a state of emergency.

Scams
Scammers may attempt to:
• Sell products that are ineffective at preventing the disease and spreading misinformation through social media, and other outlets
• Solicit donations to help coronavirus victims

Protect Yourself
• If you suspect price gouging, the Louisiana Attorney General encourages consumers to local Sheriff or District Attorney and to the Attorney General Jeff Landry’s Consumer Protection Section at 800-351-4889
• Use trusted sources such as legitimate government websites such as Centers of Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization
• Consult medical professionals for questions about prevention and treatment
• Research before donating; don’t reveal personal or financial information
• Avoid clicking on links or attachments in unsolicited emails
• https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing

Prepare Your Household Now
• https://www.usa.gov/coronavirus

Resources
Consumer Finance Protection Bureau
Legal Assistance (see contact info below)