In May 2020, SLGE polled public agency employees on the impacts of COVID-19 on their job and finances. This infographic displays more specific data for African American respondents (n = 128) – who represent 9% of K-12 public school teachers and 18% of state and local government workers – as well as comparisons to the remainder of the sample. For the full results, see Public Sector Employee Views on Finances and Employment Outlook Due to COVID-19.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS
To what extent is debt a problem for you and your family currently?

Over the course of the next year, do you expect you will take on more debt than you currently have now?

SPENDING LESS
23% of African Americans expect to spend significantly less than during the previous year vs. 30% of Hispanics and 14% of Whites/Caucasians.

WORKING REMOTELY
38% of African American respondents are doing all work remotely, with another 21% working mostly remotely – comparable shares to those among non-African American employees. Prior to the pandemic, 15% of African Americans worked remotely to the same or greater extent than they do now, and 10% worked remotely but less than they do now.

GREATER VISIBILITY
27% of African Americans strongly agree that the pandemic makes people more aware of the importance of the work they do, compared to 14% of all other respondents.

EMOTIONAL IMPACTS
African American respondents were somewhat more likely to express positive rather than negative feelings while at work in relation to COVID-19. These may relate to both direct concerns about the risks posed by COVID-19 and the satisfaction felt from being of service to their local community during a time of need.

Retirement impacts:
African American respondents were more likely than others to indicate that they were extremely concerned about the impacts of the pandemic on their retirement plans.

Percentage extremely concerned about COVID-19 impact on

Note: For all other emotions surveyed, the difference between African American respondents and all others was 3% or less.