

CARES ACT: FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE FACTS

WHAT IS THE CARES ACT?

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is a **two trillion dollar** economic recovery act that the federal government passed on **March 26th, 2020**. This law will provide economic relief for workers who are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including additional **unemployment insurance (UI) assistance** for people who have lost jobs and income (including people who don't traditionally qualify for UI), **one-time direct payments**, and **paycheck protection for small businesses**.

ONE TIME RELIEF REBATES

Individuals who filed 2018 or 2019 taxes will be eligible for a **one-time direct payment of up to \$1,200**. Those earning up to \$75,000/year would get the full \$1200, and it phases out after that up to \$99,000. Each **qualifying child will get \$500 additional**. These payments will be made automatically as long as you have filed 2018 or 2019 taxes. **Social security recipients who do not file taxes are also eligible**. More information can be found [here](#).

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PUC) IS FOR: WORKERS WHO HAVE LOST INCOME DUE TO COVID-19

From **March 26th until July 31st of 2020**, an additional **600 dollars per week** will be automatically provided on top of regular unemployment benefits. For example, if you receive \$504 in unemployment a week (the maximum benefit in New York), you would receive \$1,104 total with PUC. This benefit is added automatically to your UI benefits. PUC does **not** count in your income when you are applying for Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, or other federal benefits.

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC) IS FOR: WORKERS WHO ALREADY USED UP THEIR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS

PEUC will extend unemployment benefits by another **13 weeks** if all existing unemployment benefits have already been used up, for a total of **39 weeks in total**. To qualify, individuals must provide proof that they are actively engaging in searching for work. Due to the outstanding circumstances surrounding COVID-19, state governments may take individual COVID-19 circumstances into consideration when granting this benefit.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA) IS FOR: INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, FREELANCERS, SELF-EMPLOYED

PUA provides unemployment benefits to individuals who are **traditionally ineligible for unemployment benefits**, like gig workers, part time workers, self-employed, or freelancers. Individuals are eligible for this benefit if they do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits and cannot work as a result of COVID-19. In order to qualify for PUA, you must first apply for traditional UI through the New York State Department of Labor (NYS DOL). **Minimum PUA benefits include: 50% an individual's' average weekly wage between January 27th - March 31st 2020**, a minimum rate of **172 dollars**, and a maximum rate is **504 dollars**. In addition, people who qualify for PUA will also automatically receive the additional 600 dollars each week for 39 weeks until July 31, 2020 through PUC.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY?

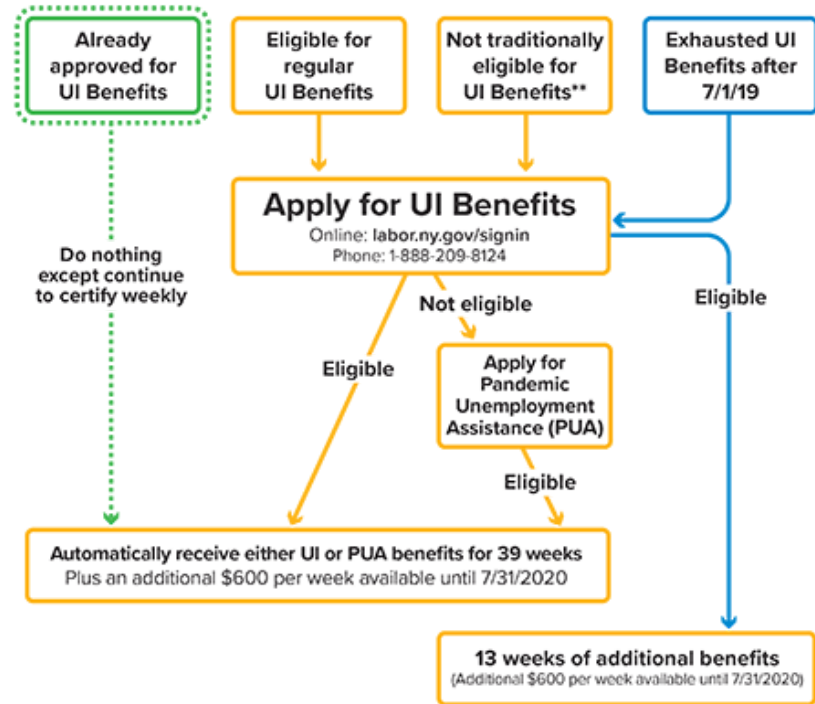
If you have lost your job, work hours, or income, then you may qualify for benefits, even if you work part time, freelance, or gig work. Tipped workers who do not report tips may not qualify, or **may qualify for low benefits**. Cash-only workers may not qualify. Undocumented workers are not eligible. **The NYS DOL encourages you to apply if you think you may be eligible.**

I NEED THIS. HOW DO I GET STARTED?

To file for unemployment, please visit labor.ny.gov or call **1-888-209-8124** to file a claim. Please note that there may be a waiting period of a few days due to high demand of calls and applications, and **you will not lose any benefits** even if you call in a few days late. The government will retroactively pay for all the benefits.

Additional Resources:

- <https://labor.ny.gov/ui/cares-act.shtm>
- <https://www.ny.gov/services/get-unemployment-assistance>
- <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/helpnownyc/get-help/individuals.page>



PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM (PPP) IS FOR: SMALL BUSINESSES THAT WERE OPERATIONAL AS OF 2/15/20

Small businesses may be entitled to receive **forgivable loans** to keep their businesses running and their workers employed from **February 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020**. Businesses will have their operational costs, utility costs, mortgage, payroll, and rent covered. Eligible businesses either meet either the **industry standard to count as a small business, or contain fewer than 500 employees**. [Find out more about PPP](#), and [learn about the loan application checklist](#). The CARES Act also expanded the **Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance (EIDL)** loan program, which small businesses up to 500 employees can apply for in addition to PPP.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED IN ADVOCACY?

CPC is advocating to make sure that all workers impacted by COVID-19 have relief, regardless of type of work or immigration status. For more info, reach out to [CPC](#) or check out our partners work at [Coalition on Human Needs](#) for more information about [the CARES Act](#) and [COVID-19 resources](#).