
Unemployment Benefits have been expanded

Benefits are now available to many who weren’t traditionally eligible and to many who have been affected specifically by COVID-19:

**IF YOU HAD A JOB AND...**

- You were laid off temporarily or permanently
- Your employer shut down
- Your hours have been reduced

**YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR**

**Unemployment Insurance**

You will receive half your average weekly wage, up to $504 per week

Due to COVID, you get an additional $600 per week through July

*Benefits last up to 26 weeks*

**Pandemic Unemployment Compensation**

If you’ve exhausted your 26 weeks of Unemployment Insurance after July 1, 2019, you will receive 13 extra weeks of benefits automatically

If you’ve exhausted these benefits, you may be eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

**OR YOUR INCOME HAS BEEN IMPACTED...**

- You are self-employed (i.e. independent car driver, cleaner, bike delivery, contractor, landscaper, etc.)
- You have no childcare and schools are closed
- You are ill with COVID-19 symptoms
- You are immune-compromised and are self-quarantining
- The head of your household died of COVID-19
- You can’t find part-time work because of COVID-19

**YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR**

**Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**

Based on your recent wages, you can receive up to $504 per week

Through July 2020, you may receive an additional $600 per week

You may also receive back-pay from as far back as January 27, 2020

*Benefits last up to 39 weeks*

If you are not eligible for Unemployment Assistance, see page 3 of this guide

Even if you’re not sure you qualify, you should still apply

**UPDATED MAY 1**
How to apply to Unemployment Assistance:

In New York State, you only apply once and the system will determine which unemployment benefits you are eligible for. You can apply in 2 ways:

Online

Apply online at ny.gov/services/get-unemployment-assistance

You can apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

The online application is only in English

Unless you need translation help or other assistance, the best way to apply is online

The online process can take up to 45 minutes.

Phone

Call the Telephone Claim Center at 1-888-209-8124

You can apply by phone

Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 7:30pm, and Saturday and Sunday, from 7:30 am to 8pm

If you need translation help, you can make your claim in 16 different languages

Call volumes are high, expect a long wait time.

Filing a claim step-by-step:

STEP 1 If applying online: Register for a NY.gov ID by providing an email, your Social Security Number and creating a PIN

If applying on the phone: Provide your Social Security Number and create a PIN

STEP 2 Provide details of your current employment, earnings and how COVID-19 affected you

STEP 3 Provide your full name, date of birth and driver’s license number (if you have one)

STEP 4 Give details on your employment in the past 18 months

STEP 5 Give information on your most recent employer and any severance, benefits or compensation you will receive

STEP 6 Provide your mailing address and information on your citizenship status

STEP 7 Decide if you will receive your benefits by direct deposit or a Key2Benefits debit card, as well as decide on your Federal and State tax withholdings

STEP 8 Review and submit your application

IF YOUR CLAIM IS APPROVED

STEP 9 Recertify your status every week, be prepared to show how much money you made each week and how many hours you’re working every week

IF YOUR CLAIM IS DENIED

Refer to page 3 of this guide to find additional resources for cash assistance

What if I need help applying?

**I don’t speak English**
When applying by phone, you can apply in **16 languages**:
Spanish, Russian, Cantonese, Mandarin, Creole, Korean, Polish, Bengali, Arabic, French, Italian, Hindi, Vietnamese, Urdu, Nepali and Tagalog

**I don’t have internet access**
If you don’t have access to internet, you can **apply by calling the Telephone Claim Center** at 1-888-209-8124

**I have a disability**
You can allow someone to aid you in filing your claim, but **you must be present** every time they help you and use your PIN, otherwise you may be subject to penalties or forfeiture of benefits

**I’m not a U.S. citizen**
In some cases, non-citizens can apply depending on your immigration status. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance does not fall under the public charge rule

Who can help me apply in the Lower East Side?

**GOLES**
Jorge Rivera
732-806-0184
jorge@goles.org
Languages spoken Español

**Office of NYS Assembly Member Harvey Epstein**
212-979-9696
epsteinh@nyassembly.gov
Languages spoken Español

What if I’m not eligible for Unemployment Assistance?
The following organizations are providing cash assistance:

**C19 Help Squad**
For financial help or grocery delivery

**Restaurant Workers Community Foundation**
For restaurants, bars and suppliers
[https://www.restaurantworkerscf.org/social](https://www.restaurantworkerscf.org/social)

**One Fair Wage Emergency Fund**
For restaurant and delivery workers, car drivers, or service workers
[https://ofwemergencyfund.org/](https://ofwemergencyfund.org/)

**United We Dream UndocuFund**
For undocumented immigrants
[https://unitedwedream.org/nationalundocufund/](https://unitedwedream.org/nationalundocufund/)

**Another Round, Another Rally**
$500 grants for hospitality workers
[https://anotherroundanotherrally.org/](https://anotherroundanotherrally.org/)

**Restaurant Strong**
For restaurant workers
[https://www.restaurantstrong.org/apply-for-grant/index.html](https://www.restaurantstrong.org/apply-for-grant/index.html)