

# COVID-19 EXPECTED BENEFITS: UNEMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT STIMULUS AND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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## **Nationally:**

- \$1,200 will be given to individual taxpayers, \$2,400 will go to married couples filing jointly, and families will receive an additional \$500 per qualifying child under the age of 17.
- Above numbers apply to individuals with adjusted gross income (AGI) up to \$75,000, married couples filing jointly with AGI up to \$150,000 and heads of households with AGI up to \$112,500. Keep in mind that AGI will be based on your 2019 tax return, or 2018 if you haven't filed yet.
- Groups that make more than those AGI figures start falling into the "phase out" category, which means the stimulus amount granted goes down as AGI goes up. Individuals and households will be paid \$5 less per every \$100 they make over the limits. The total phase out amounts, meaning the AGI is too much to qualify for a stimulus check, are \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for married couples filing jointly, or \$136,500 for heads of households
- Stimulus checks will be direct deposited into the bank account listed on 2019 tax returns (or 2018, if you have yet to file for last year). If no bank account is listed on either return, the IRS will send a physical check to your most recent address on file. Direct Deposit stimulus checks will be the first wave and expected to be available for April 6<sup>th</sup>. The second wave of checks will be those physically mailed and are expected to arrive for May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Stimulus checks likely won't be seized to pay a tax debt. The only time they will be withheld is when an individual owes child support money.
- National Covid-19 Information Hotline – (800) 232-4636

## **States and Respective Regions:**

### **New York**

- Department of Social Services can offer rental aid and can be reached at (315) 435-2700
- NY State has waived the 7-day waiting period for unemployment. Not taking anyone in person. You can reach via phone at 1-888-209-8124 or online at [https://labor.ny.gov/ui/how\\_to\\_file\\_claim.shtm](https://labor.ny.gov/ui/how_to_file_claim.shtm)
- Determines your weekly unemployment benefit amount by dividing your earnings for the highest paid quarter of the base period by 26, down to a minimum of \$104 and up to a maximum of \$504 per week.

- **Additional unemployment benefit of \$600 dollars per week up to July 31<sup>st</sup> in result of federal Coronavirus Aid Act.**
- Covid-19 Information Hotline – (888) 364-3065
- For seniors seeking assistance in common services such as food, grocery, or medication deliveries can contact the following County Offices of Aging
  - Schenectady (518) 382-8481
  - Albany (518) 447-7177
  - Rensselaer (518) 270-2730
  - Saratoga (518) 884-4100
  - Dutchess (845) 486-2555

## **Syracuse**

- If your work schedule was reduced as a result of the coronavirus and you are unable to pay your rent, you can apply for a Cash Assistance special grant request to get benefits for emergencies
  - The fastest way to submit your request is either online or in person. You can also apply by fax or mail.
  - You will need to have an in-person interview to complete the application process.
  - To apply, visit: <https://a069-access.nyc.gov/accesshra/>
  - If you would like to fax or mail your application, you can get more information and assistance by phone.
  - **Agency:** Human Resources Administration
  - **Phone Number:** 718-557-1399
  - **Business Hours:** Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
  - Staff is available through the automated phone system during business hours. Automated assistance is also available in Cantonese, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish. Most languages are available through a staff person.
- In order to qualify for grant assistance from the Bartender Emergency Assistance Program, the recipient must satisfy all the following requirements:
  1. Be a Bartender or the spouse or child of a Bartender. The Bartender Emergency Assistance Program defines a “Bartender” as an individual employed in serving beverages or otherwise engaged in the production, promotion or distribution of alcoholic beverages. An individual is

considered “employed” as a Bartender if, for not less than one year prior to the application, the individual performed services as a Bartender on a regular full- or part-time basis or, if the catastrophic event or emergency hardship giving rise to the application prevents the individual from performing such services, for not less than one year prior to the event or hardship the individual performed services as a Bartender on a regular full- or part-time basis.

2. Experience a catastrophic event or emergency hardship that is:

- Identifiable and described in detail in the application.
- Damaging to the person or property (e.g., loss of life, health, or property).
- Sudden and precipitous rather than gradual or progressive.
- Unexpected, unanticipated, unforeseen, unintended, or unplanned; and
- Unusual and not normally occurring in the ordinary course of day-to-day living.

3. Lack the necessities of life, including financial, physical, mental, or emotional well-being as a result of the catastrophic event or emergency hardship.

4. Provide tangible documentation of the catastrophic event or emergency hardship.

- To apply for a grant visit : <https://www.usbgfoundation.org/covid-19-response>

- In this time of crisis, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United is providing resources and financial assistance to restaurant workers impacted by the coronavirus crisis.
  - Apply here : <https://rocunited.org/relief/?ceid=8648&emci=81616fb5-a668-ea11-a94c-00155d03b5dd&emdi=a71743ac-ab68-ea11-a94c-00155d03b5dd>
- You can visit the Central New York Community Foundation’s website (<https://cnycf.org>) to learn more about their emergency grant programs to help those affected by covid-19 in addition to the nonprofit organizations it’s funding to help communities in your area

## **Rochester**

- United Way of Greater Rochester focuses on connecting those in need with desired agencies and resources in your area. You can call them by dialing 211, or visit their website via this link (<https://uwrochester.org/Resources/Get-Help>)
- 211 Lifeline is offering rent assistance, and can be accessed by calling 211 or via this link to their website under their housing-financial assistance tab (<https://211lifeline.org/categories.php?cat=FinnAssRent>)
- Monroe county is offering emergency financial assistance to those in need of cash, rent, utilities, transportation, food/nutrition, housing, health insurance, day care subsidies and job search support. To

learn more on how to apply, you can visit the following link (<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/hs-coronavirus>)

- For seniors seeking assistance in common services such as food, grocery, or medication deliveries can contact the Monroe County Office of Aging at (585) 325-2800

## **Ithaca**

- United Way of Tompkins County is responding to an increase in local needs due to COVID-19 by expanding and expediting existing funding processes. As always, 100% of donations given through United Way of Tompkins County (UWTC) will continue to go directly to agency programs and services. UWTC will aid local agencies addressing unforeseen challenges in the areas of health care, food security, and financial stability initiated by COVID- 19.
- Catholic Charities Tompkins / Tioga, a funded partner of UWTC, has programs to help all people and families needing help with emergency financial assistance, food, and housing
- For seniors seeking assistance in common services such as food, grocery, or medication deliveries can contact the Tompkins County Office of Aging at (607) 274-5482

## **Massachusetts**

- The total amount of benefits available to the worker is the lesser of 30 times the potential weekly benefit amount, or 36% of total base period wages.
- As of October 2019, the maximum weekly benefit amount is \$823, and a worker can collect up to a maximum of 30 weeks.
- **Additional unemployment benefit of \$600 dollars per week up to July 31<sup>st</sup> in result of federal Coronavirus Aid Act.**
- Additional Resources
  - **United Way of Pioneer Valley**
    - United Way of Pioneer Valley - 1441 Main Street, Suite 147, Springfield, MA 01103  
Phone: (413) 737-2691  
Fax: (413) 788-4130
  - **Salvation Army**
    - Address: 170 Pearl Street Springfield
    - Telephone: 413-733-1518
    - Email: David.Moore@use.salvationarmy.org or Norma.Moore@use.salvationarmy.org

○ **Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**

Address: 243 Cottage St, Springfield, MA 01104

Open · Closes 5PM

Phone: [\(413\) 858-1000](tel:(413)858-1000)

○ **CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD**

Address: 65 Elliot St, Springfield, MA 01105

Telephone: 413-452-0606

○ **MA Healthy Foods in a SNAP**

Open · Closes 5PM

Telephone: [\(877\) 382-2363](tel:(877)382-2363)

○ **Department of Unemployment Assistance**

Employer Customer Service Line [\(617\) 626-5075](tel:(617)626-5075)

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Valley Opportunity Council

Address: 300 High St #1, Holyoke, MA 01040

Telephone: 413-552-1548

○ **Springfield Department of Health and Human Services**

Address: 311 State St, Springfield, MA 01105

Telephone: 413-787-6740

## **Connecticut:**

- The annual revision of the **Unemployment** Insurance **benefit** rate will result in claimants receiving a **maximum amount** of \$649 per week, benefits are available for up to 26 weeks
- The DOL determines your weekly benefit amount by averaging your wages from the two highest quarters in your base period and dividing that number by 26, up to a maximum of \$649.
- **Additional unemployment benefit of \$600 dollars per week up to July 31<sup>st</sup> in result of federal Coronavirus Aid Act.**

## **New Hampshire:**

- If you are eligible to receive unemployment, you can look up your weekly benefit amount in the New Hampshire Benefit Amount Schedule online. The maximum weekly benefit amount is currently \$427; the minimum amount is currently \$32.
- You may receive benefits for a maximum of 26 weeks. (In times of very high unemployment, additional weeks of benefits may be available.)
- For those eligible under Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, there will be an increase of the minimum weekly benefit amount from \$32/week to \$168/week, which includes people earning less than \$15,500 during their base period.
- **Additional unemployment benefit of \$600 dollars per week up to July 31<sup>st</sup> in result of federal Coronavirus Aid Act.**