



Enhanced Unemployment Benefits

Millions of Americans have lost their job as a result of the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and Congress has responded in a bipartisan way to strengthen the unemployment insurance program for individuals. On March 27, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress passed and the President signed the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act:

- Makes available an additional \$600 in unemployment compensation, available until July 31, 2020. Combined with the underlying state unemployment benefit, this would replace 100 percent of wages for the average U.S. worker. The federal supplement would not affect eligibility for Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.
- Makes available an additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment compensation, after New York State's 26 weeks of unemployment benefits are exhausted.
- Creates a temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program through the end of 2020 to help provide payments to those who aren't traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits, such as those who are self-employed, independent contractors, and those with limited work history, and are unable to work as a direct result of this public health crisis.

Unemployment insurance is managed at the state level. New York State has waived the seven day waiting period if you are out of work as a direct result of a quarantine or COVID-19 related closure.

In addition, telephone hours have been extended for filing unemployment claims, including Saturday hours, and benefits can also be applied for online. Telephone hours are:

- Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 7:30 pm.
- Friday, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Saturday, 7:30 am to 8:00 pm.

For further information please go to <https://labor.ny.gov/unemploymentassistance.shtm> or call 1-888-209-8124.

As always, my office is here to help. If you need guidance or assistance, please call 315-732-0713.

COVID-19 is a rapidly changing public health emergency, so please consult the latest available information at [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)



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