

EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Unemployment Insurance (UI) pays individuals who have lost their job and who meet certain eligibility requirements. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the US Government and State of Michigan have changed the Unemployment Insurance system, which qualifies additional classes of individuals for UI benefits.

ELIGIBILITY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

You are eligible for unemployment benefits in Michigan if any of the following apply to you:

- You have been fired, laid off permanently or laid off temporarily (furloughed)
- Your place of employment is closed
- You are unable to work because you must provide childcare due to school closings or must care for a family member who has been exposed to the coronavirus
- You are immunocompromised or forced to self-quarantine, and you are not receiving paid family and medical leave or disability benefit
- You are self-employed, a low-wage worker, a 1099-independent contractor or a gig worker and have lost income due to COVID-19
- Your unemployment benefits have run out

Immigrants with work authorization who meet at least one of these conditions are eligible to apply for UI benefits.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO APPLY

You'll need to provide the following documentation in order to complete a successful application for unemployment:

- Social Security number
- State Issued Driver's License or ID card
- Employment information for the past 18 months, including employer name and address, first and last day of work and gross (pre-tax) earnings
- Your address, phone number and date of birth
- Resident Alien: registration card and the expiration date of your work authorization card

PLEASE NOTE

Unemployment benefits are not considered public benefits as part of the public charge rule. Properly filing for unemployment will not affect your current or future immigration status.

HOW TO APPLY

You can apply for unemployment in Michigan online or by phone. The online application is available in **English**. To apply online, visit michigan.gov/uia. **Interpretation is available** for non-English speakers by phone at (866) 500-0017 (M-F 8am-6pm, Sat 7am-2pm).

When you can apply depends on the first letter of your last name. The application schedule is below.

LAST NAME BEGINS WITH	APPLY ONLINE AT michigan.gov/uia	APPLY BY PHONE AT (866) 500-0017
A through L	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	Monday, Wednesday
M through Z	Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday	Tuesday, Thursday
If you missed your days	Saturday	Friday, Saturday

WHAT YOU MAY RECEIVE

The maximum UI payment in Michigan is \$362 per week. Under the CARES Act passed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UI recipients can receive an additional \$600 per week of Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC). This amount is payable for weeks of benefits between March 29, 2020 and July 31, 2020.

If your claim is approved, you can receive unemployment benefits for up to 39 weeks under the CARES Act.

AFTER YOU APPLY

You can receive money either through direct deposit or on a provided debit card.

You need to certify your eligibility every two weeks to receive payment. You can do so either online or by phone.

- To certify online, visit Michigan.gov/uia and log into your MiWAM account.
- To certify by phone, call 866-638-3993 Monday through Saturday, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

For more COVID-19 information and resources, visit globaldetroitmi.org/covid19.

The information in this document has been verified to the best of our abilities but should not be considered as tax or legal advice. We strongly recommend consulting with an accountant and/or lawyer before taking action. Global Detroit cannot guarantee that there are no mistakes or errors despite our best efforts and, given the rapidly changing nature in current circumstances, changes may occur after time of publication that impact the accuracy of the information in this document. This document was last updated on April 20, 2020.

