

# Off Work Due to the Coronavirus

October 1, 2020 **UIA Update: Michigan Activates Federal Extended Benefits** - *Allows for up to 59 weeks of unemployment benefits to those impacted by economic uncertainty created by COVID-19.*

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) announced that the unemployment insurance benefits period has been lengthened under the Federal Extended Benefits (EB) program. The UIA implements the EB program that pays unemployment benefits during periods of high unemployment to workers who exhausted their basic entitlement to regular state and federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits. EB is a program that provides an extension of benefits to those who can establish/have established a state unemployment claim.

EB provides up to 20 weeks of additional benefits to workers who have exhausted their regular benefits (26 weeks maximum) and PEUC (13 weeks). Primarily federally funded, the EB program kicks in when the state's unemployment rate averages 8% or higher for three consecutive months. [Continue reading...](#)

October 20, 2020 **Governor Whitmer Signs Bipartisan Bills Extending Unemployment Benefits to 26 Weeks**, Calls on the Republican Legislature to Make them Permanent

Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed Senate Bills 886 and 991 codifying part of her executive orders expanding unemployment benefits to Michiganders. The bills the governor signed today will extend unemployment benefits for Michiganders who have lost work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic from 20 to 26 weeks until the end of the year. Senate Bills 886 and 991 were both sponsored by Senator Ken Horn (R-Frankenmuth). [Continue reading...](#)

## Here are 5 steps you should take:

1. [Apply for Unemployment Benefits](#) Unemployment benefits are made available through taxes paid by your former employer(s) to partially replace your regular earnings and help you meet expenses while you look for another job. These benefits are intended to assist workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own and are **not** based on financial need.

### [FEDERAL CARES ACT EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY, INCREASES UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS](#)

2. [See what other benefits you are eligible for through the Department of Health & Human Services](#) Families and individuals can apply for a variety of services such as Medicaid, food, cash, child care, and emergency relief programs.
3. [Call 2-1-1 or visit their website](#) 211 is the trusted and valued gateway for referrals and information to meet essential needs. 2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-remember telephone number that connects people in need with people who can help ~ 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternate phone number: (888) 636-4211
4. [File your taxes](#) If you haven't already filed your taxes, now is the time to do so. You may be eligible for a refund that can help provide a financial cushion. Visit [MyFreeTaxes](#) to see if you qualify for free filing through United Way's partnership with H&R Block. Also, the federal government is working on extending the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for some taxpayers. Check the [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus) for official updates.
5. [Call your utility and credit card companies and other lenders](#) Some creditors have hardship plans for when you are going through an emergency. If you are impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, reach out to your utility companies, credit card issuer, auto loan provider, mortgage company, and other lenders to see what options are available to you.