



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY**

Senators, Representatives and Staff,

This is your Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity COVID-19 update for Monday, April 20.

## **Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) Claims**

| <b>Week Ending</b> | <b>Initial Claims Filed</b> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| March 21           | 127,810                     |
| March 28           | 303,638                     |
| April 4            | 384,444                     |
| April 11           | 219,320                     |

*Data for the previous week is released on Thursdays following the US DOL weekly report.*

### **Benefits paid**

Around \$825 million in unemployment payments have already gone to more than 750,000 claimants affected by COVID-19 – and those numbers are increasing every day. According to the U.S. Dept. of Labor guidelines, more than 99% of eligible Michigan claimants are currently receiving their benefits in timely manner.

We appreciate your partnership, patience and support as UIA staff continues to work diligently to resolve outstanding constituent inquiries during unprecedented increase in applications, along with federal and state changes in eligibility and benefits. We encourage each of you to visit and share the resources available on [www.michigan.gov/CoronaVirus](http://www.michigan.gov/CoronaVirus). In particular, please see the [Employer and Worker resources located under the Resources section](#).

**All eligible workers will receive benefits**

The UIA assures that every eligible worker in Michigan who applies for unemployment benefits will receive them. The UIA will be accepting claims and benefit applications back-dated to reflect the date on which the claimant was laid-off due to COVID-19, beyond the previously established 28-day period (\$600 federal payment is only retroactive back to March 28).

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## Resources to Help Workers Certifying Unemployment Claims

The Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency has developed new resources to help Michigan workers certify their unemployment claims:

- [Online video tutorial on certifying claims](#)
- [Info-graphic on the certifying process](#)

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## Information Regarding Newly Eligible Workers

Michigan's self-employed workers, gig workers, 1099-independent contractors and low-wage workers affected by COVID-19 can apply for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) as of 8 a.m. this morning. Under the federal CARES Act, workers on state unemployment have already begun receiving the set \$600 federal weekly payment in addition to their state benefit amount. Michigan is one of the first states to begin sending the \$600 payment.

[A federal CARES Act one-pager on this expansion is available online.](#)

Online is the fastest and easiest way to access these benefits. Workers need to use the [UIA's daily filing schedule](#) based on their last names which can be found on [www.michigan.gov/UIA](http://www.michigan.gov/UIA). For example, last names beginning with letters A-L should start filing claims Monday.

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## Newly eligible workers who have been previously denied benefits

Self-employed workers, gig workers, 1099-independent contractors and low-wage workers who have previously applied for unemployment benefits and have been denied should login to their MiWAM account to complete the next steps for PUA federal benefits. These steps will also be emailed to workers. They should not file a new claim, as that may delay the time it takes to get their benefits.

All newly eligible workers will need to provide proof of income to receive the maximum amount they are entitled. This could include W-2s, 1099 tax forms, and pay stubs. These workers will begin receiving federal benefits as early as April 20 after their bi-weekly certification. Individuals on paid sick leave or other paid leave – and those who can telework with pay – are not eligible for PUA.

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## \$600 Federal Payments

**Workers already receiving state benefits:** Workers already collecting state unemployment benefits have begun receiving the \$600 federal set amount in addition to up to \$362 they were previously eligible for. These payments are disbursed at the same time as their state benefits through direct deposit or debit card after their bi-weekly certification.

**Newly eligible workers:** Eligible self-employed workers, gig workers, 1099-independent contractors, and low-wage workers will begin receiving their state benefit amount (paid with federal funds) and the \$600 federal payment as early as April 20.

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## UIA Constituent Inquiries

### Please Note NEW MILogin Related Information

Email CRT forms of constituents with login related issues directly to [UIA-miwamissues@michigan.gov](mailto:UIA-miwamissues@michigan.gov) for assistance.

Constituents whose CRT forms have been emailed to [UIA-miwamissues@michigan.gov](mailto:UIA-miwamissues@michigan.gov) should be alerted that calls from UIA regarding their situation will be coming from 866-500-0017. Many constituents are not picking up when UIA calls them back, thus prolonging their situation.

### MILogin

MILogin is the single sign-on application constituents use to access certain state services including DHHS benefits, Michigan Secretary of State, and their MiWAM (Michigan Web Account Manager) account. Constituents can access MILogin from the Unemployment website at [www.michigan.gov/uia](http://www.michigan.gov/uia).

Below are answers to two frequently asked questions related to MILogin issues:

- *What if I forgot my password?* Click on the “Forgot your password?” link from the MILogin for Citizens ([milogin.michigan.gov](http://milogin.michigan.gov)) page to initiate the password reset. You will be asked to enter your current User ID, select a security option to verify your identity, and enter a new password to reset the forgotten password.
- *What if my account has been locked?* If your account has been locked, it will automatically be unlocked after 30 minutes.

### Michigan Web Access Manager (MiWAM)

The [MIWAM toolkit for claimants](#) is a resource for legislative offices and constituents for many issues related to MILogin concerns. The toolkit contains sections on Frequently Asked Questions, how to file a claim, changing and resetting passwords, and other items related to MiWAM management. We encourage offices to download this toolkit to provide answers on some of the more common questions.

### Shareable Graphics and One-Pagers

We have developed several shareable resources available on [Michigan.gov/CoronaVirus](http://Michigan.gov/CoronaVirus) under [Resources, For Employers and Workers](#). Additional resources are being added, so check back often.

Here are the top three to share:

[Unemployment Insurance 101 – One-Pager \(PDF\)](#)

[Unemployment Alphabetic Filing – Graphic \(PNG\)](#)

[Newly eligible filers under the CARES Act – One pager \(PDF\)](#)

## **UIA Capacity**

We continue to dedicate additional staff and shifted resources within state government to handle the volume of constituent inquiries. Some of those efforts include:

- Expanding hours for phone assistance to Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. This includes an hour before the phone lines open to answer web emails and up to an hour and a half after the phone lines are closed to close out the phone queue. For the foreseeable future, UIA staff are working mandatory overtime Monday through Saturday and voluntary overtime on Sunday to answer web emails.
- Training 35 Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) employees to address MILogin and MiWAM logon and authentication issues. Constituents who encounter these issues as they attempt to login will receive a message on how to contact DTMB for assistance. These employees will also answer emails sent in to [UIA-MiWAMIssues@michigan.gov](mailto:UIA-MiWAMIssues@michigan.gov).
- Training and onboarding 200 temporary contract workers to supplement existing UIA call center staff. These workers are part of an existing state contract that is being redeployed. All 200 temporary staff will be on the phone by the end of the week.
- Hiring an additional 100 UIA temporary state employees to expand casework capacity. These positions have already been posted and UIA is working through interviewing and onboarding these employees.

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## **Resources for Employers**

### **Work Share**

Employers are encouraged to implement the State's Work Share program that permits employers who may be facing maintain business operations during declines in regular activity instead of laying off workers. The program allows employers to keep their employees working with reduced hours, while employees collect partial unemployment benefits to make up a portion of the lost wages. More information about Work Share is available online at [www.michigan.gov/WorkShare](http://www.michigan.gov/WorkShare).

Visit the Unemployment Insurance Agency website for:

[Unemployment Resources for Employers](#)

[Employer Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### **Unpaid Leave vs. Termination**

Due to the uncertainty regarding potential congressional action regarding whether furloughed workers will be able to access federal resources, employers are urged to place employees on temporary leave as opposed to termination. [View the State's guidance for employers contemplating potential layoffs.](#)

## Capital Resources for Employers

### Business Call Centers

The MEDC's call center stands ready to support businesses with questions about assistance available to small business through existing state programs by calling 888-522-0103. The Michigan Small Business Development Center can also provide resources at [sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19](http://sbdcmichigan.org/small-business-covid19).

### Small Business Association Loans

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved the governor's request for a statewide Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) declaration, opening the opportunity to small businesses to access low-interest loans from the SBA.

Michigan small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and nonprofits that have suffered substantial economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak can now apply for low-interest loans as part of \$1 billion in funding. The application for disaster loan assistance is available at: [disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](http://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela).

### Paycheck Protection Program

Businesses across Michigan are now able to apply for \$349 billion in Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration. These forgivable loans will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis with funding caps in place, so it is critical Michigan small businesses to apply early – with the application period for small businesses opening on April 3 and for independent contractors and sole proprietors on April 10. A coalition that includes the state of Michigan, SBAM and the Michigan Association of CPAs has launched [PaycheckProtectionProgramMichigan.com](http://PaycheckProtectionProgramMichigan.com) to make the process as streamlined and as simple as possible for businesses to apply.

The PPP loans are designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses – including hospitality and food industry businesses and sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons – to keep their workers on the payroll and may be forgiven if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

### Tax Assistance for Small Businesses

The Michigan Treasury Department is providing small businesses that have experienced disrupted operations due to the COVID-19 additional time to make their sales, use and withholding tax monthly payment. Small businesses scheduled to make these payments on March 20 can postpone filing and payment requirements until April 20. Penalties and interest penalties will be waived for 30 days. [Learn more about penalties and interest online](#) or by calling the Treasury Business Tax Call Center at 517-636-6925.

#### MISSION

Expand economic opportunity and prosperity for all

#### VISION

Make Michigan a place where all PEOPLE, BUSINESSES, and COMMUNITIES have the educational and economic means to reach their full potential