

## **COVID-19 Unemployment Compensation Q&A**

- **How can I apply for unemployment compensation?**
  - Enhanced unemployment benefits authorized in the stimulus package that Congress recently passed will be distributed through each state's existing unemployment insurance system.
  - In Oregon, the Employment Department administers unemployment insurance. More information, including a link to file an unemployment claim online, can be found at: <https://www.oregon.gov/Employ/Unemployment/Pages/default.aspx>
  - If you live in Oregon but worked outside of the state, you should apply for unemployment compensation through the state where you worked. In most states, you can apply online.
  
- **How much can I get through Unemployment Insurance?**
  - The exact amount of unemployment compensation you can receive will depend on your work history and previous earnings.
  - Between now and July 31, 2020, an additional \$600 will be added to every unemployment compensation check, so no one will receive less than \$600 per week.
  
- **How do I know if I'm eligible for Unemployment Insurance?**
  - Workers who have been laid off or furloughed by their employer through no fault of their own are generally eligible for unemployment compensation. Additionally, the stimulus package recently passed by Congress temporarily expands unemployment insurance to cover individuals who are not traditionally covered, including the self-employed, gig-workers, independent contractors, and workers with irregular work history.
  - It also expands the list of allowable criteria for claiming unemployment compensation to include many reasons related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
  
- **What if I've been out of work because of COVID-19 for several weeks already?**
  - If you exhaust the weeks of unemployment compensation available to you through your state's laws, you will now be eligible for an additional 13 weeks of benefits. These benefits will be federally-funded, but you will still receive them through your state.
  
- **How long will the expanded benefits be in place?**
  - Expanded eligibility for unemployment compensation will be in effect until December 31, 2020.
  - A \$600 additional benefit will be added to unemployment compensation received for weeks between now and July 31, 2020.