

State Updates

NEW Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Florida's Participation in the Federal Lost Wages Assistance Program

Governor Ron DeSantis announced that the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) will submit Florida's application to participate in the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program. This program provides additional temporary benefits for individuals who are eligible for Reemployment Assistance for weeks of unemployment ending on or after Aug. 1, 2020.

Pending federal approval, this will allow Florida to offer an additional \$300 per week to eligible Reemployment Assistance claimants. To be eligible for this benefit, claimants must be currently receiving at least \$100 in an approved Reemployment Assistance program weekly benefit amount and must certify that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Pending approval of Florida's application, payments will be retroactive to August 1, 2020.

Floridians who are currently receiving Reemployment Assistance benefits, are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 and are currently receiving at least \$100 per week in Reemployment Assistance benefits will be eligible to receive the additional \$300 benefits from the LWA funds funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This includes individuals receiving:

- State Reemployment Assistance, including Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) and Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members (UCX);
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC);
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA);

- Extended Benefits (EB);
- Short-Time Compensation (STC);
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA); and
- Payments under the Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program.

The LWA program will be administered similarly to the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program. No additional application will be necessary. Eligible Floridians who are currently receiving Reemployment Assistance will receive their LWA benefits the same week they receive their weekly Reemployment Assistance benefits. DEO highly recommends that Reemployment Assistance claimants select direct deposit as their means of receiving benefits to ensure payments are received as quickly as possible.

DEO is currently preparing to implement the LWA program to ensure eligible Floridians receive the additional benefits as quickly as possible.

***Reminder* Welfare Transition Program/TANF and SNAP E&T Program Recipients**

The Governor now has directed The Department of Children and Families (DCF) to postpone the reinstatement of work requirements through the end of August 2020.

For more information, visit [this link](#).

Questions? Contact your Career Consultant or
wtpteam@careersourcepbc.com (cash assistance only)
snapteam@careersourcepbc.com (food stamps only)

***Reminder* Unemployment Support**

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) - provides an additional \$600 per week to any individual eligible under Florida law for Reemployment Assistance or federal unemployment programs. This benefit is available for weeks claimed March 29, 2020 – July 25, 2020, in addition to the funds owed under Florida law to eligible individuals.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) – provides up to \$275 in weekly benefits to those not ordinarily eligible for Reemployment Assistance, in addition to the FPUC funding. This includes individuals who are self-employed or contract employees. For those eligible, this benefit is available for weeks claimed from February 2, 2020 – December 26, 2020.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) – provides up to \$275 in weekly benefits and allows up to an additional 13 weeks of benefits added to the end of state Reemployment Assistance benefits, in addition to the FPUC funding. This means claimants may collect unemployment benefits for a longer period of time than under normal circumstances. PEUC will provide individuals with up to \$275 in weekly benefits.

Reemployment Assistance benefits, formerly known as unemployment compensation, can be filed by accessing CONNECT online via <http://www.floridajobs.org/> in the Reemployment Assistance Service Center or call 1-800-681-8102.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or PUA information is available [here](#).

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
(DEO) **Reemployment Assistance FAQs.**

- Click [here](#) for more information on Applying for PEUC
- Click [here](#) for the step-by-step guide PEUC Guide on how to apply for PEUC

[Link](#) to the downloadable form to apply for RE-Employment (unemployment)

Temporary Layoff Program: This is part of the Reemployment Assistance program. Individuals on a “temporary layoff,” which means a job separation due to lack of work which does not exceed 8 consecutive weeks and which has a fixed or approximate return-to-work date, may be eligible if they were temporarily laid off due to the virus and remain available to work. [Click here](#) for more information.

***Reminder* Unemployment will be Retroactive**

Department of Management Services Jonathan Satter announced Floridians making unemployment claims will receive them retroactively to the day of their job loss, if that date was later than March 9.

As a reminder, free, printed paper applications in 3 languages are available at certain Palm Beach County Library System locations. FedEx Office Centers also have the applications. Please do not return completed paper applications to library locations. They can be dropped off at these [FedEx Office Centers](#) in Palm Beach County. FedEx will send applications to Tallahassee at no charge.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

***Reminder* Housing Assistance**

Florida Housing’s Coronavirus Relief Fund for Impacted Homeowners and Renters

\$120 million of the State of Florida’s Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) allocation has been authorized to Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) to assist Floridians that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and struggling to pay housing expenses such as:

rent, mortgage payments, and emergency repairs that will keep families stably and safely housed.

Florida Housing staff are working with the local governments and SHIP Programs in preparation to begin the application process in each community as soon as possible.

For additional program information or to speak to a representative, call Florida Housing's toll-free Coronavirus Relief Fund Information Line at 1-888-362-7885. Open Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

***Reminder* Department of Education Update**

The Governor and Commissioner of Education announced plans to reopen Florida's schools by the Fall. You can learn more about the plan [here](#).

The Florida Department of Education (DOE) established a resource website for educators, parents, and students to utilize free resources to help students with distance learning. **[Click here for more information.](#)** In addition, DOE has a **[webpage](#)** dedicated to information and resources related to COVID-19.

Virtual and Telephonic Mental Health Counseling Services. [Click here for more information.](#)

Child Support Program. The Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) provides online resources to assist families in handling their child support case without visiting a local Child Support Office. (850) 488-5437.

***Reminder* Benefits + Emergency Services from Feeding South Florida**

Feeding South Florida provides direct-service programs to individuals in need of assistance. This includes benefits application assistance, access to their choice pantry, referrals for longer-term food assistance at a partner agency, and home delivery for qualified individuals. To fill out a client services application, please click this [link](#).

For updates on this week's distributions in Palm Beach County, please see chart below.

<small>This list is updated daily at www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19. Dates, times, and locations may change. If you plan to attend a distribution, please review this calendar the day-of to confirm the schedule. Esta lista se actualiza todos los días en www.feedingsouthflorida.org/covid19. Las fechas, horas, y direcciones pueden cambiar. Revise el calendario el día de la distribución para confirmar el horario.</small>						
FEEDING SOUTH FLORIDA CALENDAR OF FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS These sites provide groceries in a "drive-thru" style. Estos sitios proveen alimentos al estilo "drive-thru."						
Site Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Distribution Date	Distribution Time
PALM BEACH						
Hope in Action East - Community of Hope	2341 S. Military Trail	West Palm Beach	FL	33415	7.18.2020	1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
City of Greenacres	5800 Melaleuca Lane	Greenacres	FL	33463	7.18.2020	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
City of West Palm Beach	1751 Palm Lakes Boulevard	West Palm Beach	FL	33401	7.20.2020	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
City of Lake Worth	1121 Lucerne Avenue	Lake Worth	FL	33460	7.21.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Town of Wellington	10300 Forest Hill Boulevard	Wellington	FL	33414	7.21.2020	8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
United Haitian	2015 Parker Avenue	West Palm Beach	FL	33401	7.22.2020	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
City of Delray	1500 SW 6 Street	Delray Beach	FL	33444	7.22.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
The Villages at Royal Palm	11600 Poinciana Boulevard	Royal Palm Beach	FL	33441	7.22.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Town of Jupiter	FAU Jupiter Campus - 5353 Parkside Drive	Jupiter	FL	33458	7.24.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
City of Riviera Beach	2409 Avenue H W	Riviera Beach	FL	33404	7.24.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
City of Palm Beach Gardens	5343 Northlake Boulevard	Palm Beach Gardens	FL	33418	7.25.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
City of Boynton Beach	801 N Congress Avenue	Boynton Beach	FL	33426	7.25.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
CF Belle Glade	400 W Avenue A	Belle Glade	FL	33430	7.25.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
CF Royal Palm	9905 Southern Boulevard	Royal Palm Beach	FL	33411	7.25.2020	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
BROWARD						

***Reminder* The Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach has expanded.**

SNAP benefit sign-up is now available by appointment at four library locations.

Please see the updated schedule below:

Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Hagen Ranch Road Branch

14350 Hagen Ranch Road
Delray Beach, FL 33446
Contact: James Vil, 561-517-7533

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Main Library
3650 Summit Blvd.
West Palm Beach, FL 33406
Contact: Mario Mendez, PBC Food Bank
561-670-2518 ext. 310

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Glades Road Branch
20701 95th Ave. South
Boca Raton, FL 33434
Contact: Mario Mendez, 561-345-5085

Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Lantana Road Branch
4020 Lantana Road
Lake Worth, FL 33462
Contact: Mario Mendez, 561-345-5085

Clients must make an appointment by calling numbers listed. They can also email the food bank at Benefits@pbcfoodbank.org to schedule appointments or ask questions. More information can be found [here](#).

***Reminder* Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture approved Florida's request to implement the Pandemic EBT program

across the state. Pandemic EBT, or P-EBT, will provide nutrition benefits to families of children eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches.

- Eligible families will automatically receive this supplemental benefit in the month of June, with funding made possible by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Additional information will be available from DCF.

\$16 Billion in USDA Aid Now Available.

Applications are open for U.S. Department of Agriculture financial support through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program. Florida farmers and ranchers can apply immediately through their county Farm Service Agency (FSA) office.

- Eligibility: To be eligible, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2015, 2016, and 2017. If 75 percent of their adjusted gross income comes from farming, ranching, or forestry, the limit of \$900,000 does not apply. Additional eligibility requirements are listed [here](#).
- Payment Limitations: Payments are subject to legal entity payment limit of \$250,000. Corporations, limited liability companies, and limited partnerships (corporate entities) may receive up to \$750,000 based on the number of

shareholders (not to exceed three) who contribute at least 400 hours of active person management or personal active labor.

- **Payment Structure:** To ensure availability of funding through the application period, producers will receive 80 percent of their maximum total payment upon application approval. The remaining portion, not to exceed the limit, will be paid at a later date as funds remain available.
- Existing customers will likely have this information on file at their local Farm Service Agency office=
- **How to Apply:** USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only, and producers should call their local FSA office to schedule an appointment. FSA staff at local USDA Service Centers will work with producers to file applications. USDA anticipates releasing payments 7-10 days after applications are received.

SBA Disaster Loan Virtual Office

The U.S. Small Business Administration South Florida District Office will host virtual office hours to answer questions about the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. Limited to 250 callers at one time. Participants may call at any time and are welcome to enter and exit at will. Callers will be muted upon entry and will be taken in the order they are received.

The virtual office hours are 11:00 A.M to 1:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Skype: <https://meet.lync.com/sba123/jfhein/DRJCSWGT>
[\[lnks.gd\]](#)

Phone: (202) 765-1264; Conference ID - 143765659

***Reminder* Florida Department of Health Launches New COVID-19 Mobile App to Help Flatten the Curve in Florida**

The Florida Department of Health announced the launch of a new mobile app, ***StrongerThanC19***. The free app, available for iOS and Android devices, complements the community action survey website of the same name that launched on April 3. These cutting-edge tools are giving residents the power to unite in the fight to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Florida.

Department of Children and Families and SNAP Benefits

Governor Ron DeSantis and the Department of Children and Families announced extended support to Floridians participating in SNAP and TANF. [Read more here.](#)

***Reminder* Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation**

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) issued emergency order, [EO 2020-05](#)

which **suspends existing license renewal deadlines until June 1, 2020**, for existing renewals between March – May 2020. It also applies to continuing education requirements and waives all late fees.

Health Care Support

Abuse Hotline (24/7). The Florida Abuse Hotline accepts reports of known or suspected child abuse, neglect, or abandonment and reports of known or suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a vulnerable adult. Report [online](#) or by calling 1-800-962-2873 Call Center (24/7).

COVID-19 hotline: 866-779-6121

email: COVID-19@flhealth.gov

Early Prescription Refills. The Governor and the Insurance Commissioner have required all health insurers and HMOs that are licensed in Florida **to authorize up to a 30 day supply of most prescription drugs and to waive time restrictions on prescription drug refills.** [Click here for more information.](#)

Suicide Prevention. If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide, please call 800-273-8255 right away. More crisis support information is also available [online](#).

Businesses and Workers Support

Business Damage Assessment Survey. The Business Damage Assessment Survey is activated to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Florida's local business operations. The survey, managed by DEO, will evaluate businesses affected by COVID-19 and the impacts the virus has had on the local economy so actions to implement appropriate relief

programs can begin. **The Business Damage Assessment Survey can be taken online.**

Short-Time Compensation Plans. Employers can work with DEO to enter into short-time compensation plans. **Under such plans, employers reduce hours for a group of employees (no more than 40% reduction) instead of resorting to temporary layoffs. Partial benefits are paid to employees. Click here for more information.**

Tax Support

State Tax-Related Support. Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) established a dedicated team to address tax-related issues pertaining to COVID-19 and created an email address, **COVID19TAXHELP@floridarevenue.com**, where taxpayers can send questions and concerns. The Department encourages all taxpayers to use e-services applications to file and pay taxes or contact the call center at 850-488-6800.

Veteran Support

Veteran Employment Assistance. Veterans Florida provides resume assistance and job placement for veterans and spouses seeking employment in Florida. Typically, the jobs are full-time and permanent; however, due to COVID-19, Veterans Florida is working with employers who are retooling and seeking temporary help at this time, as well. Click here for more information.

Veteran Legal Help Line. 1-866-486-6161
Veteran Support Line. 1-844-693-5838

Attorney General

Price Gouging. The Attorney General's NO SCAM Price Gouging App can be downloaded free of charge through Apple and Android stores by searching NO SCAM. A price gouging hotline is available toll-free at: **1-866-9-NO-SCAM (866-966-7226)**. [Click here](#) for more information.

Federal Updates

***NEW* CONGRESS SET TO RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER.** Both chambers have adjourned for the August district work period, and are not expected to convene for legislative business until next month.

CMS ISSUES BULLETIN ON MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT STRATEGIES TO PREVENT SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN NURSING FACILITIES. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [Medicaid Informational Bulletin](#) outlining guidance to states on flexibilities that are available to increase reimbursement for nursing facilities that implement specific infection control practices.

- This includes information on the Disaster State Plan Amendments (SPA) template and describes how states may use state-directed payments to increase reimbursement to nursing facilities in managed care

HHS ADDS HEALTH PLANS TO JUNE 2020 PLASMA DONATION GUIDANCE.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Civil Rights (OCR) issued [amended guidance \[r20.rs6.net\]](#) on how the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy Rule permits covered health care providers and health plans to contact their patients and beneficiaries who have recovered from COVID-19 to inform them about how they can donate their convalescent plasma.

- The guidance emphasizes that, without individuals' authorization, the providers and health plans cannot receive any payment from, or on behalf of, a plasma donation center in exchange for such communications with recovered individuals.

***Reminder* Paycheck Protection Program**

Newly released additional information regarding the Paycheck Protection Program:

- [SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan Report Round 2 \[home.treasury.gov\]](#)

For more information and updates, visit [Treasury.gov/CARES \[home.treasury.gov\]](#) and [SBA.gov/PaycheckProtection \[sba.gov\]](#).

***Reminder* Mortgage, Rental and Housing Assistance**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) launched the new mortgage and

housing assistance website, cfpb.gov/housing [consumerfinance.gov].

FHFA and HUD are offering extensive CARES Act assistance and protection for Americans having trouble paying their mortgage or rent during the COVID-19 national health emergency.

This joint website consolidates the CARES Act mortgage relief, protections for renters, resources for additional help, and information on how to avoid COVID-19 related scams. It also provides lookup tools for homeowners to determine if their mortgage is federally backed, and for renters to find out if their rental unit is financed by FHA, Fannie Mae, or Freddie Mac.

***Reminder* Student Loan Payment Suspension and more**

The CFPB has also released information on new programs aimed at helping struggling consumers during this time. These programs include [student loan payment suspension \[consumerfinance.gov\]](https://consumerfinance.gov); [mortgage forbearance \[consumerfinance.gov\]](https://consumerfinance.gov); [stimulus payments \[consumerfinance.gov\]](https://consumerfinance.gov); and [the paycheck protection program \[consumerfinance.gov\]](https://consumerfinance.gov).

Additionally, the Bureau has a centralized [webpage with information on how consumers can protect their finances during the pandemic \[consumerfinance.gov\]](https://consumerfinance.gov).

Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program This pilot program allows SBA Express Lenders authority to deliver expedited SBA guaranteed financing on an emergency basis for disaster-related purposes to eligible small businesses, while the small businesses apply for and await long-term financing. [Click here for more information.](#)

Eligibility Criteria: Eligible recipients may qualify for a loan up to \$10 million determined by 8 weeks of prior average payroll plus an additional 25% of that amount. Loan payments will be deferred for six months. If you maintain your workforce, SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first 8 weeks of payroll and certain other expense following loan origination. Click [here](#) to learn more. The application and further information is also available at this [link](#).

Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan or Loan Advance. The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. If you have questions about this or other federal SBA programs please contact the Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 or (TTY: 1-800-877-8339) DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. More information can be found at [SBA Disaster Loan Assistance](#).

Unemployment Insurance

More laid-off and furloughed workers will be eligible for Unemployment Insurance and will see an additional \$600 per week to match the average paycheck for up to 4 months of benefits. For a list of unemployment offices by state please click [here](#).

Direct Payments to Individuals and Their Families

If you have not received your coronavirus relief money via direct deposit from the federal government, they request you visit this IRS website to check your status and provide your current banking information.

Additionally, if you did not file a tax return in 2018 or 2019 and/or don't receive social security or disability benefits, they have added a new tool on the IRS website to enter that information.

Homeowners and Renters Protection

Mortgage Forbearance: Homeowners with FHA, USDA, VA, or Section 184 or 184A mortgages (for members of federally-recognized tribes) and those with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac have the right to request forbearance on their payments for up to 6 months, with a possible extension for another 6 months without fees, penalties, or extra interest. **Homeowners should contact their mortgage servicing company directly.**

Eviction Protections: Renters residing in public or assisted housing, or in a home or apartment whose owner has a federally-backed mortgage, and who are unable to pay their rent, are protected from eviction for 4 months. Property owners are also prohibited from issuing a 30-day notice to a tenant to vacate a property until after the 4-month moratorium ends. This protection covers properties that receive federal subsidies such as public housing, Section 8 assistance, USDA rural housing programs, and federally-issued or guaranteed mortgages. **Renters whose landlord is not abiding by the moratorium should contact the relevant federal agency that administers their housing program or their local Legal Aid office.**

Energy Assistance for Low Income Families

This legislative package includes \$900 million to help low income Americans and their families heat and cool their homes. To learn more about the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in your state, click [here](#).

Emergency Paid Leave

Many workers in America currently have no paid leave and are being forced to choose between their paycheck, their health, and the health of the people around them.

The emergency paid leave provisions passed by Congress and signed into law by the President are a critical step toward protecting families' financial security and mitigating the spread of the coronavirus. Below is information on eligibility for emergency paid sick leave and paid family leave.

Committee on Education and Labor Fact Sheet: Who is Eligible for Leave [link](#).

Small Businesses Forgivable Loans and Grants

Congress secured \$350 billion in forgivable loans and \$10 billion in grants to small businesses, tribal business concerns, and certain nonprofits.

Loans through a new SBA 7(a) Paycheck Protection Program can be forgiven when used for payroll costs (including paid leave, health care, and other costs) to retain workers, and other expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. Independent contractors, sole-proprietors, and other self-employed persons are eligible for these loans.

For a list of SBA offices by state with contact information please click [here](#).

Paid Sick and Family Leave Tax Credit

Employers who provide required leave to their employees and who employ less than 500 employees are eligible for a tax credit to offset the costs of such leave. This tax relief will be provided against quarterly payroll taxes (those paid in connection the Form 941). For additional guidance, please refer to the IRS's [website](#)

School Meals

As more schools close due to coronavirus, Congress has provided emergency funding for Child Nutrition Programs to ensure students can still receive their free or reduced-price school meals during this time. Click [here](#) to learn more about what your state is doing during this time.

Veterans

Congress provided robust emergency funding to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has the equipment, tests, and support services – including setting up temporary care sites, mobile treatment centers and increasing telehealth visits to allow more veterans to get care at home – necessary to provide veterans with the additional care they need. For further guidance as this funding and initiatives are implemented, please refer to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs [website](#).

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255
