

Resources for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stability (CARES) Act

Federal Programs:

This website contains the various ways the US Treasury Department is supporting American Workers impacted by the coronavirus. <https://home.treasury.gov/cares>

Unemployment for Vermont:

The “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance” program will cover self-employed workers (including gig workers and independent contractors), part-time workers, and those with limited work histories. You can learn more information and apply by visiting the Vermont Department of Labor (DOL) website: <https://labor.vermont.gov/covid19>. The DOL is currently experiencing an unprecedented call volume so it is very difficult to get through. I recommend you apply online.

Additional Unemployment Insurance Contact Information: (<https://labor.vermont.gov/>)

Constituents should be encouraged to use the online form. Call centers have long waiting times.

File An Initial Claims: 1-877-214-3330 (Mon-Fri 8:15am-6:00pm)

Supplemental Initial Claim Intake: 1-888-807-7072 (Mon-Fri 8:15am-6:00pm)

File A Weekly Claim: 1-800-983-2300 (Automated)

General Assistance Line: 1-877-214-3332 (Mon-Fri 8:15am-6:00pm, Sat 9:00am-3:00pm)

Employer Services Line: 1-802-828-4344 (Mon-Fri 8:15am-6:00pm)

Small Business:

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options>

There are 4 SBA relief options, and you may qualify for more than one form of assistance:

- **Payment Protection Program (PPP) Loans** to provide cash-flow assistance to employers who maintain their payroll during this emergency. <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>
- **Small Business Debt Relief Program** for immediate relief to small businesses with existing non-disaster SBA loans, in particular 7(a), 504, and microloans. The SBA also recently [announced automatic deferments for borrowers still paying back SBA loans from previous disasters](#).
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Emergency Economic Injury Grants** to provide an emergency advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits harmed by COVID-19 within three days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). You can apply [here](#).
- **Express Bridge Loans** for small businesses who currently have a business relationship with an SBA Express Lender to access up to \$25,000 quickly.

The Small Business Owner’s Guide to the CARES Act

https://www.sbc.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/9/7/97ac840c-28b7-4e49-b872-d30a995d8dae/F2CF1DD78E6D6C8C8C3BF58C6D1DDB2B.small-business-owner-s-guide-to-the-cares-act-final-.pdf

There is also IRS tax relief that you may be able to take advantage of, you can learn more here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/irs-guidance-coronavirus-paid-leave-workers-and-tax-credits-small-businesses-ir-20-57>.

Rent and Mortgage Relief:

Housing/Rental Assistance

Language from CARES act on Evictions and Forbearance:

Forbearance and Moratorium on Foreclosures – The bill provides American homeowners with important protections to help keep them in their homes. Homeowners with FHA, USDA, VA or other federally-backed mortgages including those guaranteed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may request forbearance on payments for up to 12 months with no fees, penalties, or extra interest. The bill also includes a 60 day moratorium on foreclosures and evictions of homeowners with FHA, USDA, VA, or 184/184A loans, or whose mortgages are backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Moratorium on Evictions – The bill also provides additional protections from eviction for millions of Americans. Owners of multifamily rental properties with federally-backed loans will be eligible to receive forbearance on those loans for 90 days, during which period they may not evict or charge late fees or other penalties to tenants for nonpayment of rent. Owners of federally-subsidized properties or properties with a federally-backed mortgage loan may not evict or charge penalties or fees to a tenant who cannot pay rent for 120 days following this act

<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/guide-coronavirus-mortgage-relief-options/>

Good information on rental assistance

<https://www.investopedia.com/renters-how-to-get-covid-19-rent-relief-4800858>

Stimulus Payments:

The bill provides for a \$1,200 one-time direct payment to individuals earning up to \$75,000 and \$2,400 for married couples earning up to \$150,000, plus \$500 for each child under 17. The payment is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income above \$150,000 for a married couple, \$112,500 for a head of household filer, and \$75,000 for an individual. The payment is not considered taxable income.

The IRS has not yet announced a schedule of when these payments will be issued. The IRS will provide updated information on its website when this information is available: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>.

The IRS will use 2019 tax returns to set payment amounts. If you haven't filed your 2019 taxes yet, 2018 tax returns will be used. When available, electronic deposit will be used in place of mailing a physical check. Electronic distributions will be automatic to an account the payee authorized January 1, 2018 or later.

You must have a Social Security number to receive a payment. Any person who is claimed as a dependent on a tax return is not eligible for a payment. Individuals receiving Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or veterans' benefits are eligible for this payment. The IRS recently announced that Social Security beneficiaries who are not typically required to file tax returns will automatically receive a payment, either via direct deposit or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their benefits. A Social Security beneficiary or an SSI recipient who is claimed as a dependent on a taxpayer's return is ineligible for the rebate.