

Resources for Workers Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic

May 2020



#SupportSeattleSmallBiz
#WeGotThisSeattle



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Mayor Jenny Durkan and the City of Seattle are working to help working people weather the COVID-19 pandemic. We prepared this guide to help you learn about and navigate local and state resources. For more information, please visit: <http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/covid-19>. If you have any medical or health care questions about the COVID-19 pandemic, please visit: [Public Health - Seattle & King County](#).

City of Seattle Resources

City of Seattle Community Resource Page: To help communities significantly impacted by COVID-19 in Seattle, the City of Seattle created a centralized website where residents can find information about relief programs offered by the City, the County and the State. This site pulls together resources for workers, artists, small businesses, nonprofits, parents, homeowners, and community members to make it easier for City of Seattle residents to find assistance during this unprecedented public health crises. [Click here to view the Mayor's COVID-19 resource website.](#)

Moratorium on Residential Evictions: On May 4, Mayor Durkan extends the emergency order to implement a temporary moratorium on residential evictions until June 4, which will keep Seattle families from losing their homes as a result of impacts from the pandemic. Tenants who receive any eviction notice during the moratorium should contact the Renting in Seattle hotline at 206-684-5700 or submit an [online](#) compliant. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Utility Payment Relief: Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and Seattle City Light (SCL) will keep utility services on during the COVID-19 Civil Emergency. This will provide immediate utility relief for customers, both residential and commercial, financially impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Effective immediately, all SPU and SCL customers can set up deferred payment plans if their financial stability has been jeopardized by COVID-19. Utility service will stay on as their deferred payment plans are developed and implemented. Customers financially impacted by COVID 19 are urged to set up payment plans with either Seattle City Light or Seattle Public Utilities by calling 206-684-3000 or sending an email 24/7 [here](#).

Paid Sick & Safe Time Ordinance: Seattle's Paid Sick and Safe Time (PSST) Ordinance provides all employees who work in Seattle with paid sick and safe time. This includes full-time, part-time, temporary, exempt, and non-exempt employees. Employees can use accrued paid sick leave if family member's school or place of care is closed. Please call the Seattle Office of Labor Standards at (206) 256-5297 or visit the [Office of Labor Standards PSST website here](#).

Face Coverings for Seattle's Most Vulnerable Residents: Following Public Health – Seattle & King County's [Local Health Directive](#), City of Seattle will provide over 45,000 free cloth face coverings to vulnerable communities, including people experiencing homeless, and low-income older adults. Food distribution services will also receive priority distribution. [Click here to read more.](#)

#SupportPugetSoundSmallBiz Campaign: In partnership with the Mayor's Office, the #SupportPugetSoundSmallBiz map is OED's social media campaign that aims to engage with both consumers and businesses to amplify which small businesses are still open. [Click here to view the map.](#)

State of Washington Resources

The Washington State Employment Security Department has adopted a series of emergency rules to relieve the burden of temporary layoffs, isolation and quarantine for businesses; you can learn more about them [here](#). [Click here](#) to view a side-by-side comparison of possible COVID-19 scenarios and State of Washington benefits available for workers.

Paid Sick Leave: Employers in Washington State are required to provide paid sick leave to their hourly non-exempt employees. An employee can use accrued paid sick leave if their place of business is shut down by a public official due to a health-related reason. Employees can use accrued paid sick leave if their child's school or place of care is closed for a health-related reason. To learn more, [click here](#) or view the [COVID-19 Q&A here](#).

Paid Family & Medical Leave: The State of Washington's Paid Family and Medical Leave program can provide paid leave benefits for Washington workers who need to take time off from work due to a serious health condition or to care for a family member with a serious health condition. Certification by a health care provider is required for applications for Paid Family and Medical Leave due to a serious health condition. Visit: <https://paidleave.wa.gov>.

State Unemployment Benefits: If you are laid off work temporarily, if your hours are reduced due to a business slowdown or a lack of demand due to COVID-19, or if you are not receiving payment from your employer such as paid sick leave or paid time off, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits and may qualify for standby during this time. Eligibility decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. Basic eligibility requirements for a claim can be found [here](#). Visit: Washington's Employment Security Department (ESD)'s [COVID-19 page](#); ESD's COVID-19 [Eligibility Checker](#); ESD's [COVID-19 Scenarios & Benefits Available](#); ESD's [Common Questions](#); ESD's [Technical Support page](#); and ESD's [Webinar on Unemployment Insurance](#).

Unemployment Fraud Alert: On May 14, Washington State Employment Security Department released a statement regarding the rise in unemployment imposter fraud attempts and announced they will hold payments for one to two days. [Click here to read more](#).

Rapid Response Layoff Resources: If COVID-19 disrupts a Washington business and causes a mass layoff or closure, ESD and its local workforce development board partners can respond with Rapid Response services and funding to help impacted workers get connected to unemployment benefits and re-employment services, including re-training, worker support services, and referrals to other social services. Visit <https://www.esd.wa.gov/newsroom/layoffassistance>.

Workers' Compensation Coverage: The Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) announced that the state is taking steps to ensure workers' compensation protections for health care workers and first responders who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 outbreak. L&I is immediately changing its policy around workers' compensation coverage for health care workers and first responders who are quarantined by a physician or public health officer. Under the clarified policy, L&I will provide benefits to these workers during the time they're quarantined after being exposed to COVID-19 on the job. [Click here to learn more](#).

Washington Connection: Washington Connection offers a fast and easy way for families and individuals to apply for a variety of services such as food, cash, childcare, long-term care, and Medicare Savings Programs. Visit <https://www.washingtonconnection.org/home/> for more information.

Insurance Issues: The Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner has resources and information available for consumers who have insurance-related questions. Learn more at <https://www.insurance.wa.gov/coronavirus>.

Financial Resources: The Washington State Department of Financial Institutions has developed a list of financial resources for Washington consumers impacted by COVID-19. View it here <https://dfi.wa.gov/coronavirus-financial-resources>.

Health Insurance Coverage: Washington Healthplanfinder ensures that individuals who have recently lost their job or their employer coverage, have experienced a change in income or experienced another [qualifying event](#) may be able to continue health insurance coverage. [Apply Health enrollment](#) is year-round. [Click here to read more](#).

Assistance in Applying for State Unemployment Benefits

Unemployment Law Project: This organization provides low-cost representation and free advice and counsel to people in Washington State who have been denied unemployment benefits or whose award of benefits is being challenged. Unemployment Law Project is also hosting and producing [webinars](#) for workers who may need additional support. They also have in-language support in Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Somali, Tagalog, Hindi, Korean, Arabic, Amharic, Laotian, and Vietnamese. For more information, [click here](#).

WorkSource Seattle-King County: Compiled list of WorkSource locations and community based organizations who are assisting workers with filing for unemployment, see their [website](#).

Neighborhood House: Neighborhood House is continuing to provide critical services and conducting appointments by phone and online to assist individuals navigating resources and support. [See their website here](#).

Federal Resources

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (or "CARES") Act was passed by Congress and signed by the President on Friday, March 27. This legislation provides businesses and individuals with new forms of relief during this period of economic hardship. Highlights and key provisions of the new law's benefits for workers include:

- Cash payments to individuals. For more information, visit this [IRS page](#).
- Expanded unemployment benefits. For more information see this [Washington ESD site](#).
- 2019 tax filing deadline extension. You can find more information [here](#).

Please note that some details and regulations are still being worked out. We will keep you updated on our [website](#) and on the [Bottomline Blog](#) as this situation evolves.

Community-Based Funds

Alliance for Education – Right Now Needs Fund: The Right Now Needs Fund provides immediate support to address the unmet basic needs of any Seattle Public School student and their family. The fund can be used to address basic needs including food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. All 102 SPS schools have a Right Now Needs Fund, and this fund is absolutely still available during this pandemic. For more information on the fund, visit: alliance4ed.org/connect-with-us/right-now-needs-fund. **Applications are open.**

Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition Assistance to Community: The South Park-based organization Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC) is offering assistance to local households. [Go here to learn more about the fund](#). To apply, please visit: duwamishcleanup.org/inneedhelp. **Applications are open.**

Homer Harris Hub COVID-19 Support (recovers.org): The recovers.org platform is a free website communities can use to organize disaster relief. These Central District community advocates have launched this Homer Harris Hub recovers.org site to connect individual volunteers and community organizations with local needs. [Go here to learn more about support](#). To apply, please visit: homerharrishub.recovers.org/needs/new. **Applications are open.**

West Seattle Support (recovers.org): The recovers.org platform is a free website communities can use to organize disaster relief. These West Seattle community advocates have launched this West Seattle recovers.org site to connect individual volunteers and community organizations with local needs. [Go here to learn more about support](#). To apply, please visit: westseattlecovid.recovers.org/needs/new. **Applications are open.**

Philanthropic and Private Resources

Food Lifeline: Food Lifeline will distribute emergency food boxes to anyone needing help keeping food on the table during the crisis. For the **weekly updated list of distribution sites**, [click here](#).

One Fair Wage Emergency Fund

The national One Fair Wage campaign has launched this emergency fund for service workers experiencing hardship during this COVID-19 pandemic. To donate to the fund or to apply for aid, please visit ofwemergencyfund.org/help.

Applications are open.

The Seattle Sounders FC Relief Fund ("Fund"): This fund was established by RAVE Foundation to support individuals, small businesses, and nonprofits located in CenturyLink Field and in the neighborhoods surrounding CenturyLink Field that have been adversely impacted by the postponement of the 2020 MLS season due to COVID-19. To find out more and apply for benefits, see their [website](#). **Applications are open.**

United Way of King County Resources for Unemployed Workers: The United Way of King County has put together a list of resources for workers who have been laid off due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This list includes links to unemployed benefits, health insurance, and other free and reduced programs in and around King County. Go to [United Way of King County](#)'s page for more information

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