



April 29, 2020

Constituent Services

Contact: 561-998-9045

## Unemployment Benefits & Tomorrow's Town Hall

Dear Friend,

Please join me for a telephone town hall tomorrow, April 30th, at 5:30pm, where I will be joined by special guests to take your questions on unemployment and other economic, physical, and mental health challenges facing our nation. Register for the telephone town hall here:

<https://frankel.house.gov/live/>

Our office phones have been ringing off the hook with calls of distress and exasperation from folks trying to get their unemployment relief.

I can assure you that myself and others have been in constant contact with the Governor, urging him to fix the problems.

The good news is that Congress has created three new unemployment support programs that are 100% paid for by the federal government, in addition to the minimal state benefits already in place.

Below you can find information on how to apply and the benefits you are entitled to if your application is approved by the state.

### **What unemployment benefits am I entitled to?**

**Benefits for Most Workers:** Employees who are laid off or furloughed through no fault of their own, or who are earning less than \$275/week due to reduced hours, are eligible for:

- Up to \$275/week for 12 weeks of state-benefits effective from the date

you apply;

- 13 additional weeks of federally-funded **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** benefits at the state rate after state benefits run out; and

- \$600/week of federally-funded **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)** benefits for up to 16 weeks from the date you apply as of March 29th, 2020.

- Florida law also requires an additional 13 weeks of state-funded benefits if unemployment rises above 10.5%.

**Benefits for Workers Otherwise Ineligible for State Benefits:** Self-employed workers like independent contractors, freelancers and part-time workers (often called ‘gig workers’), workers who don't have a long-enough work history to qualify for state benefits, or workers who otherwise wouldn't qualify for benefits under state or federal law, are eligible for **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**:

- Up to \$275/week for 39 weeks of federally-funded benefits effective from the date you applied, with eligibility extending from January 27 through December 31; and

- \$600/week of federally-funded benefits for up to 16 weeks benefits for up to 16 weeks from the date you apply as of March 29, 2020.

\*If you fall into this category and applied for benefits on or before April 4, you should reapply at [FloridaJobs.org](https://www.floridajobs.org) and select “File a Claim” to request PUA. If you applied on or after April 5, and were deemed ineligible for state benefits you should expect to receive additional application information via email from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) for next steps. (See this [flow chart](#) from the DEO for additional guidance.)

### **How do I submit my application for Reemployment Assistance?**

There are multiple ways to submit an application for Florida Reemployment Assistance. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity also created a

[Resource Guide and Q&A](#) to help answer any questions applicants might have on the unemployment benefits process.

1. New applicants can complete an application online at [FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication](https://floridajobs.org/RAApplication) or on the [mobile-friendly application](#).
2. Complete a paper application by following the steps online at [FloridaJobs.org/COVID-19](https://floridajobs.org/COVID-19). Then mail your application to: Florida Dept of Economic Opportunity, P.O. Box 5350, Tallahassee, FL 32314-5350
3. CareerSource centers throughout the state can offer assistance with paper applications. Please visit [careersourceflorida.com](https://careersourceflorida.com) to find website and contact information for your local career center. We recommend calling to confirm the hours of operation.
4. FedEx is also offering Floridians the option to print and mail applications in storefronts located throughout the state free of charge. Please visit [FedEx.com](https://FedEx.com) for a location near you.
5. It is also suggested that you screenshot or take photos of your initial application to prove when you first applied for assistance.

*\* If you have questions or need assistance completing your application online, you can contact DEO at **800-204-2418** for assistance. (Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am-6:30pm and Sat-Sun 8:00am-2:00pm).*

### **A shared responsibility**

As always, I encourage everyone to follow the [CDC's best practices](#) and rely on the [CDC](#), [Palm Beach County Health Department](#), and [Florida Health Department](#) for the most accurate and up-to-date information on confirmed cases.

Please also consider registering to vote-by-mail for the upcoming elections [here](#).

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to my office in Boca

Raton or D.C. by calling the numbers listed below. For regular updates, follow me on social media @RepLoisFrankel or sign up for my newsletter [here](#).

Sincerely,



Congresswoman Lois Frankel

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