

# Am I Eligible?

## Immigration-Related Eligibility Requirements for Benefits Under New Federal Laws

Congress has passed three packages in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent bill became law on March 27th. Find out if you qualify for direct cash payments and unemployment insurance.

<b>Direct Cash Payments</b>	
<b>What is it?</b>	\$1,200 for each adult and \$500 for each child
<b>What are the immigration-related requirements?</b>	<p><u>Social security number (SSN) requirement:</u></p> <p>To be eligible, individual filers and those filing jointly must have valid SSNs. (With exception for spouses filing jointly where at least one spouse was in the armed forces last tax year and at least one spouse has a valid SSN.) Children claimed as dependents for the \$500 rebate must have valid SSNs.</p> <p><u>Other immigration requirement:</u></p> <p>You must <i>either</i> have a green card <i>or</i> meet what is called the “substantial presence test.” In general, people who have been living in the U.S. for the past 3 years will easily pass the test. If you have spent a long time outside the U.S. in the past 3 years, go to <a href="https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/substantial-presence-test">https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/substantial-presence-test</a> to see if you pass the test.</p>
<b>What are the other eligibility requirements?</b>	You must have filed a 2018 and/or a 2019 tax return or be receiving Social Security benefits.
<b>How do I get it?</b>	If you’re eligible, you will get the payment automatically through direct deposit into your bank account or a check.

## Unemployment Insurance (UI)

<b>What is it?</b>	<p>A federal program administered by states that gives people who lose their jobs payments based on their work history until they can find another job. The CARES Act builds on this existing UI program and creates three new ones:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <u>Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUC)</u>: Gives \$600 more per week to anyone receiving payments under the regular UI (that already existed before this new law) and the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) (see below).</li><li>2. <u>Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)</u>: Gives 13 more weeks of UI benefits after the regular UI benefits run out.</li><li>3. <u>Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)</u>: Program for those who do not qualify for the regular UI program or have already received all the benefits available through the regular UI program. This includes: self-employed workers, independent contractors, freelancers, workers seeking part-time work, and workers who do not have long-enough work history to qualify for regular UI benefits.</li></ol>
<b>What are the immigration-related requirements?</b>	<p>To be eligible for <i>any</i> type of UI, you must be work authorized when you apply for the benefits and you must have been work authorized when you lost your job.</p> <p>This means folks with green cards and unexpired work authorizations--including through DACA and TPS--are eligible. Undocumented community members who do not have work authorization do not qualify.</p>
<b>What are the other eligibility requirements?</b>	<p>Eligibility requirements for regular UI, along with their PUC and PEUC extensions, vary by state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You can look for your state's requirements here: <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/find-unemployment-benefits.aspx?newsearch=true">https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/find-unemployment-benefits.aspx?newsearch=true</a></li><li>• You can look at recent state expansions to UI in response to COVID-19 here: <a href="https://s27147.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/State-Unemployment-Insurance-Developments-Response-COVID-19-v-2020-03-24.pdf">https://s27147.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/State-Unemployment-Insurance-Developments-Response-COVID-19-v-2020-03-24.pdf</a></li></ul>

	<p>To be eligible for PUA, you must be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. partially or fully unemployed; or</li><li>2. unable or unavailable to work because of COVID-19-related circumstances; or</li><li>3. self-employed; or</li><li>4. seeking part-time employment (if state law allows for benefits for part-time workers); or</li><li>5. do not have sufficient work history to qualify for UI, or otherwise do not qualify for UI.</li></ol>
<b>How do I get it?</b>	<p>Application procedures vary by state. Look for instructions here: <a href="https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/find-unemployment-benefits.aspx?newsearch=true">https://www.careeronestop.org/LocalHelp/UnemploymentBenefits/find-unemployment-benefits.aspx?newsearch=true</a></p>