



Alabama Department of Labor Alabama Career Center System PRESS RELEASE



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News Release

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2020

ADOL Encourages Employees to File for Benefits Under the CARES Act

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Labor is encouraging employees who believe they may qualify for programs under the CARES Act to file a claim. These employees will also need to certify weekly to continue to let us know that they remain unemployed.

Although ADOL does not yet have technical guidance or a start date regarding the CARES Act programs, benefits may be paid retroactively from the time the employee separated from his or her job or otherwise became eligible under the federal CARES Act, not from the time the application was submitted or approved.

Employees who may be affected include:

- The self-employed
- Church employees
- Non-profit and governmental employees
- Independent contractors
- Gig economy workers
- Those who have exhausted their regular UI benefits.

These employees should also meet one of these conditions:

- The individual has been diagnosed; or
- A member of the individual's household has been diagnosed; or
- The individual is providing care to a household or family member; or
- A child or other person for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility as a result of COVID-19; or
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency; or
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine; or
- The individual was scheduled to start work and does not have a job as a result of COVID-19; or
- The individual has become "the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19"; or
- The individual has to quit their job because of COVID-19; or
- The individual's place of employment is closed because of COVID-19.

This list is not exhaustive.

Claims can be filed online at www.labor.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382. Patience is encouraged when trying to file a claim.

Further details regarding the CARES Act programs will be forthcoming, including information regarding Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, which provides for an additional \$600 a week in unemployment compensation benefits. The additional \$600 weekly benefit will only be available for weeks beginning March 29, 2020. Other programs included in the act are Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC).

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 309-9014.

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