

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

What the AEMI unions and their members won in the CARES Act



Overview of New Economic Support

- 2020 Recovery Rebates
 - \$1,200 per person/\$2,400 per couple (+\$500 per qualifying child)
 - Full amount for people earning \$75,000 (\$150,000 jointly) or less
 - Benefit phases-out for people earning more than \$99,000 (\$198,000 jointly) with no kids
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
 - Additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance for employee-classified workers who have exhausted or will exhaust state UI benefits without finding a new job
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
 - Temporary 39-week program to provide payment to people not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits who are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19 emergency
- Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
 - Provides an additional \$600 per week for anyone receiving regular state UI, PEUC, or PUA.
 - Lasts through July 31, 2020 and will not be paid retroactively
- Paycheck Protection Program SBA loan eligibility for freelancers and independent contractors

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance eligibility

- A person is eligible for PUA if they are not eligible for or have exhausted UI and the person can ***self-certify*** that they are (1) partially or fully unemployed, OR (2) unable and unavailable to work because of one of the following circumstances:
 - They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have symptoms of it and are seeking diagnosis;
 - A member of their household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - They are providing care for someone diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - They are providing care for a child or other household member who can't attend school or work because it is closed due to COVID-19;
 - They are quarantined or have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine
 - **Was scheduled to start employment and does not have a job or cannot reach their place of employment as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;**
 - They have become the breadwinner for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
 - They had to quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19;
 - **Their place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;** or
 - They meet other criteria established by the Secretary of Labor.
- A person is also eligible for PUA if **self-employed**; seeking part-time employment (if state law allows for benefits for PT workers); or does not have sufficient work history to qualify for UI, or otherwise does not qualify for state UI.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefit calculation

- Modeled after federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program under the Stafford Act
- Minimum benefit equal to one-half the state's average weekly UI benefit (~\$190 per week) PLUS \$600*

*Pandemic Unemployment Compensation through July 31, 2020

Federal Arts Funding

- NEA/NEH

- \$150 million to state arts and humanities agencies to provide grants and support arts organizations, museums, libraries, and other organizations during the coronavirus crisis. \$75 million for the National Endowment for the Arts; \$75 million for the National Endowment of the Humanities.
 - 60% of NEA and NEH grants are direct

- CPB

- \$75 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to make fiscal stabilization grants to public television and radio stations facing declines in non-Federal revenues. These funds will help maintain programming and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in non-Federal revenues.

Student Loan Support

- **Suspension of Payments Due and Interest Accrual**

- Section 3513 allows federal student loan borrowers to suspend their payments through **September 30** without penalties, interest accumulation, or the loss of eligibility for programs such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness. This expands upon the 60-day suspension on loan payments previously announced by the Department of Education. Borrowers with automatic payment plans will likely need to cancel their automatic payments to take advantage of this suspension.

- **Suspension of involuntary payments and garnishments**

- The legislation suspends involuntary payments (including the garnishments of tax refunds and social security payments) for borrowers in default and the Department of Education announced it would refund approximately \$1.8 billion in recent involuntary payments made by borrowers.

- **Tax-free employer contributions**

- Another provision of the bill allows employers to pay up to \$5250 each year towards employee student loans tax-free.