

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

The COVID-19 challenge raises many important questions from Kansans. Answers to questions that are often asked about health, travel, economic relief, unemployment insurance, and other resources are provided below. Stay up to date and stay safe.

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Public Health

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a new (or novel) coronavirus that was not identified in humans before December 2019. There are many coronaviruses, all of which typically cause respiratory disease in humans. In March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic due to the number of countries affected by its rapid spread.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms of COVID-19 can be mild or cause severe illness and even death. Some of the most common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. For more information, please visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

What are the risks of COVID-19?

COVID-19 can cause mild or severe illness or even death. Those at highest risk of severe illness include people over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, and people with a compromised immune system. However, there are several instances of young and healthy people developing serious illness, and even death, due to COVID-19. In addition, younger people may act as carriers of the virus, which can then spread to others at higher risk.

How does the COVID-19 virus spread?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. For more information, please visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov).

What can I do to protect myself from getting COVID-19?

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19, but you can take necessary steps to protect yourself and others.

- Wash your hands often: use warm water and soap and wash for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Practice “social distancing”: if COVID-19 is spreading in your community, put distance between yourself and other people, especially if you are at higher risk of getting serious illness.
- Stay home if you’re sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched surfaces daily.

NOTE: Effective March 30, Governor Laura Kelly has issued a statewide Stay At Home order to combat the spread of COVID-19. All Kansas are directed to stay in their homes unless performing an essential activity. Click [here](#) for more information.

Should I wear a facemask?

CDC continues to stress the importance of maintaining “social distancing” practices, such as staying 6 feet away from others, to slow the spread of COVID-19.

CDC also recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, such as grocery stores and pharmacies. For more information on how to wear cloth face covering and how to make your own, please see CDC’s guide: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/DIY-cloth-face-covering-instructions.pdf>

CDC stresses that surgical masks and N-95 respirators are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders.

What should I do if I suspect I may have COVID-19?

If you have or think you might have COVID-19, stay home and get in touch with a doctor before you get medical care. If you have a medical emergency, call 911 and notify the operator that you have or think you might have COVID-19. For more information, please visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Where can I find health information about COVID-19 in Kansas?

The website for the Kansas Department of Public Health can be found [here](#).

Hospitals and Health Care Providers

What programs are available to provide assistance for health care providers?

Congress recently passed the CARES Act, which provides funding for financial assistance to health care providers. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is currently working to make funds available.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the expansion of the Medicare Accelerated and Advanced Payment Program. This program provides advanced payments to hospitals, health care providers, and suppliers who need quick financial assistance during the emergency.

Who is eligible for the Medicare Accelerated and Advanced Payment Program?

Hospitals, providers, and suppliers are eligible if they:

- Have billed Medicare for claims within 180 days immediately prior to the date of signature on the provider's/supplier's request form
- Are not in bankruptcy
- Are not under active medical review or program integrity investigation
- Do not have any outstanding delinquent Medicare overpayments

CMS is authorized to provide accelerated or advance payments during the period of the public health emergency to any Medicare provider/supplier who submits a request to the appropriate Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) and meets the required qualifications.

How much assistance does this program provide?

Most hospitals, providers, and suppliers can request up to 100% of their Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. Certain types of providers can receive higher payments:

- Inpatient acute care hospitals, children's hospitals, and certain cancer hospitals can request up to 100% of the Medicare payment amount for a six-month period.
- Critical Access Hospitals may request up to 125% of the Medicare payment amount for a six-month period.

How do I apply for this program?

Accelerated or Advance Payment requests should be submitted to the appropriate Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). Request forms are available on each MAC's website. MACs serving Kansas are listed below:

- Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS) - Jurisdiction 5 & Jurisdiction 8
 - Toll-free Hotline Telephone Number: 1-844-209-2567
 - Hours of Operation: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm CT
- CGS Administrators, LLC (CGS) – Jurisdiction 15 (for home health and hospice)
 - Toll-free Hotline Telephone Number: 1-855-769-9920
 - Hours of Operation: 7:00 am – 4:00 pm CT

Travel Guidance

Is it safe to travel domestically?

CDC does not generally issue advisories or restrictions for travel within the United States. However, cases of COVID-19 have been reported in all states, and some areas are experiencing community spread of the disease. Crowded travel settings, like airports, may increase chances of getting COVID-19, if there are other travelers with coronavirus infection. Please see the most up-to-date domestic travel information from the CDC available [here](#).

Is it safe to travel internationally?

CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential international travel because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some health care systems are overwhelmed and there may be limited access to adequate medical care in affected areas. Many countries are implementing travel restrictions and mandatory quarantines, closing borders, and prohibiting non-citizens from entry with little advance notice. Airlines have cancelled many international flights and in-country travel may be unpredictable. If you choose to travel internationally, your travel plans may be disrupted, and you may have to remain outside the United States for an indefinite length of time. More CDC international travel update can be found [here](#).

Additionally, effective March 19 the U.S. Department of State advises U.S. citizens to avoid all international travel due to the global impact of COVID-19. Please see more [here](#).

What to do if I or one of my family members is stranded abroad?

You are highly encouraged to contact the office of Senator Roberts so that staff may assist you. Please also register with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate or do so online via [STEP](#), the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. STEP provides citizens with safety alerts about local conditions and a communication link to their families back home.

Recovery Checks

Why is the government sending one-time payments to most Americans?

Congress passed an economic relief plan that includes one-time direct payments to help Americans weather the economic disruption from Covid-19.

How much money is it?

The full amounts provide \$1,200 for each adult, \$2,400 for married couples, and \$500 for each child under 17. A typical family of four is eligible for a \$3,400 recovery rebate.

Who is eligible?

U.S. residents with a Social Security Number, who are not dependents, and receive an income under \$75,000 in adjusted gross income for individuals, \$112,500 for heads of household (often single parents), and \$150,000 for married couples are eligible for the full rebate amounts. The payments start decreasing above those income thresholds.

How do I get my rebate?

For most Americans, no action is required. The IRS will use a taxpayer's 2019 tax return if filed or their 2018 return if they haven't filed their 2019 return. This includes many individuals with very low income who file a tax return despite not owing any tax in order to take advantage of the refundable Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

Are taxpayers above the income thresholds eligible for any rebate?

The rebate is reduced by \$50 for each \$1,000 that a taxpayer's income exceeds the phase-out threshold. The amount is completely phased-out for single filers with incomes exceeding \$99,000, \$146,500 for head of household filers with one child, and \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. For a typical family of four, the amount is completely phased out for those with adjusted gross incomes exceeding \$218,000.

When will I get my rebate? Is there a way to get it faster?

The IRS plans to start issuing payments in April. Rebates should go to taxpayers in mid-April for those who filed in 2018 or 2019 with direct deposit information. Taxpayers receiving rebate checks may have to wait longer (perhaps six to eight weeks) to receive a paper check in the mail. Treasury is developing a web-based portal for individuals to provide their direct deposit information to the IRS online, which is expected to be available in mid-April. Taxpayers will be able to receive payments more quickly through direct deposit as opposed to checks.

What if my income was above the income threshold in 2019, but I've lost my job due to Covid-19. Can I still get a rebate check?

If your income in 2019 was in the phase-out range you would still receive a partial rebate based on your 2019 tax return. However, the rebate is actually an advance on a tax credit that you may claim on your 2020 tax return. If your income is lower in 2020 than in 2019, any additional credit you are eligible for will be refunded or reduce your tax liability when you file your 2020 tax return next year.

Is the rebate taxable?

No.

Will taxpayers have to pay back any amount if the rebate based on their 2019 return is larger than what it would be if based on their 2020 tax year return?

No. If the credit amount you qualify based on 2020 income is less than what you qualify for based on your 2019 tax return, it does not have to be paid back.

I'm on Social Security. Am I still eligible for a recovery payment?

Yes, unless you are a dependent of someone else.

I'm a low-income non-filer who does not receive Social Security. Am I still eligible for a recovery payment?

Yes, you are eligible even if you do not have income or do not usually file a tax return. You can file a free tax return on the IRS website [here](#) so your information is up to date.

Who qualifies as a child for purposes of the rebate?

In general, a child is any dependent of a taxpayer under the age of 17.

Do dependents, other than children under 17, qualify a taxpayer for an additional \$500 per dependent?

No, the additional \$500 per child is limited to children under 17.

Are individuals with little to no income or those on means-tested federal benefits, such as SSI, eligible for a recovery rebate?

Yes. Even individuals with \$0 of income are eligible for a rebate so long as they are not the dependent of another taxpayer and have a work-eligible SSN.

Are seniors whose only income is from Social Security or a veteran whose only income is a veterans' disability payment eligible?

Yes, as long as they are not the dependent of another taxpayer. The bill also provides IRS with additional tools to locate and provide rebates to low-income seniors who normally do not file a tax return by allowing them to base a rebate on Form SSA-1099, Social Security Benefit Statement or Form RRB-1099, which is the equivalent of the Social Security statement for Railroad Employees. However, seniors are still encouraged to file their 2019 tax return to ensure they receive their recovery rebate as quickly as possible.

I'm divorced. Does each parent receive a \$500 rebate for each dependent?

No. Only the taxpayer claiming the child as a dependent will receive the rebate.

Are college students eligible for a recovery rebate?

Only if they are not considered a dependent of their parents. Generally, a full-time college student under the age of 24 is considered a dependent if their parent(s) provide more than half of their support.

What should I do if I did not file a tax return for 2019 or 2018?

The best way to ensure you receive a recovery rebate is to file a 2019 tax return if you have not already done so. This could be accomplished for free online from home using the IRS Free file program (link [here](#)). The bill also instructs the IRS to engage in a public campaign to alert all individuals of their eligibility for the rebate and how to receive it if they have not filed either a 2019 or 2018 tax return.

If I have a past due debt to a federal or state agency, or owe back taxes, will my rebate be reduced?

No, the bill turns off nearly all administrative offsets that ordinarily may reduce tax refunds for individuals who have past tax debts, or who are behind on other payments to federal or state governments, including student loan payments. The only administrative offset that will be enforced applies to those who have past due child support payments that the states have reported to the Treasury Department.

Where can I find updates the rebate checks?

The latest updates will be made available through the IRS and Treasury.

Useful information can be found at the following links: [IRS - Economic Payments: What You Need to Know](#) and the [IRS Coronavirus webpage](#).

Other Economic Relief for Individuals

Has the federal income tax deadline been extended?

Yes. The April 15 tax-filing deadline has been extended to July 15 of this year. All taxpayers and businesses will have additional time to file and make payments without interest or penalties. That includes 2019 tax returns as well as estimated taxes for the first quarter of 2020. Taxpayers do not need to file forms seeking extensions.

For taxpayers who are owed a refund from their federal income taxes, you should strongly consider filing before the July 15, 2020 deadline. Tax refunds can provide a much-needed boost of cash during uncertain economic times. Filing your federal income taxes electronically with direct deposit information is the fastest way to receive your refund. You can file a free tax return on the IRS website [here](#).

Are there any changes to retirement funds related to the virus?

Yes. Consistent with previous disaster-related relief, there is a waiver of the 10 percent early withdrawal penalty for distributions up to \$100,000 from qualified retirement

accounts for COVID-19 related purposes made on or after January 1, 2020. In addition, income attributable to such distributions would be subject to tax over three years, and the taxpayer may retribute the funds to an eligible retirement plan within three years without regard to that year's cap on contributions.

There is also a waiver of the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules for certain defined contribution plans and IRAs for calendar year 2020. This provision provides relief to individuals who would otherwise be required to withdraw funds from such retirement accounts during the economic shock caused by COVID-19.

Do student-loan borrowers get economic relief?

Yes. The CARES Act included a provision that requires the deferral of student loan payments, principal, and interest for 6 months, through September 30, 2020, without penalty to the borrower for all federally owned loans. This provides relief for over 50 percent of student loan borrowers.

The bill also enables employers to provide a student loan repayment benefit to employees on a tax-free basis. An employer may contribute up to \$5,250 annually toward an employee's student loans, and such payment would be excluded from the employee's income. The cap applies to both the new student loan repayment benefit as well as other educational assistance (e.g., tuition, fees, and books) provided by the employer. The provision applies to any student loan payments made by an employer on behalf of an employee after date of enactment and before January 1, 2021.

Paid Leave

Is my employer required to provide paid sick leave and paid family leave due?

Employers with less than 500 employees must offer paid sick leave and paid family leave to eligible employees. Small businesses with fewer than 50 employees may qualify for an exemption from offering leave to employees who are caring for a child whose school is closed or child care provider is unavailable if providing the leave jeopardizes the viability of the business. There are also exemptions for healthcare workers.

Am I eligible for paid sick leave or paid family leave due to the virus?

Employees of employers who are required to provide paid sick leave are eligible for paid sick leave or paid family leave if the employee:

1. is subject to a Federal, State, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID-19;
2. has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine related to COVID-19;
3. is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and is seeking a medical diagnosis;
4. is caring for an individual subject to an order described in (1) or self-quarantine as described in (2);
5. is caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) for reasons related to COVID-19; or
6. is experiencing any other substantially-similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of Labor and Treasury.

If I meet one of the qualifying reasons for paid sick leave or paid family leave, how long will my employer pay for my leave?

Full-time employees who meet reasons 1-4 or 6 are eligible for up to 80 hours of paid leave. A part-time employee is eligible for paid leave up to the number of hours that employee works on average over a two week period.

Employees who meet reason 5 are eligible for up to 12 weeks of paid leave. This is 2 weeks of paid sick time and 10 weeks of paid family leave.

How much am I paid while on paid sick leave or paid family leave?

Employees who meet reasons 1, 2, or 3 are paid at their regular wages up to \$511 per day.

Employees who meet reasons 4, 5, or 6 are paid at two-thirds their regular wages up to \$200 per day.

Are part-time employees and self-employed workers eligible?

Yes. Part-time workers will be paid the amount they earn on average in a two-week period. Self-employed workers can also receive paid leave if they pay taxes.

Am I eligible if I work at a big company?

If you work at a company with 500 or more employees, you may take the sick leave your company already offers.

Are employers reimbursed for the amount paid to employees for paid sick leave and paid family leave?

Yes. Employers will be reimbursed for 100% of the funds paid to employees pursuant to the newly required paid sick and family leave. Business and nonprofits will be refunded in the form of a payroll tax credit. The reimbursement will also cover the employer's contribution to health insurance premiums during the leave.

When can employers start claiming the credits?

Eligible Employers may claim tax credits for qualified leave wages paid to employees on leave due to paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for reasons related to COVID-19 for leave taken beginning on April 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2020.

When will employers start to receive the credits?

After qualified leave wage payments have been made, Eligible Employers may receive payment of the credits in accordance with applicable IRS procedures.

Is the paid leave permanent?

No. The paid leave is a response to Covid-19, and expires on December 31, 2020.

Where can I find more information about how this credit works?

The IRS has provided detailed guidance about how the credit works for small and mid-sized businesses [here](#).

Where can I find more information about paid sick leave and paid family leave?

Please see the guidance issued by the Department of Labor for more information:

- [U.S. Department of Labor: Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor: Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights](#)

Small Business Loans

What is the Paycheck Protection Program?

The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) is an extension of the Small Business Administration 7(a) loan program. PPP provides cash-flow assistance through 100 percent federally guaranteed loans to employers who maintain their payroll during the COVID-19 emergency. If employers maintain their payroll partial loan forgiveness is available, which would help workers remain employed, as well as help affected small businesses through this temporary, but acute, public health challenge.

PPP loans provide forgiveness of up to 8 weeks of payroll based on employee retention and salary levels, no SBA fees, and at least six months of deferral with maximum deferrals of up to a year. Small businesses and other eligible entities will be able to apply if they were harmed by COVID-19 between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020. PPP loans are available through June 30, 2020.

Where can I apply for the Paycheck Protection Program for small businesses?

You can apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) at any lending institution that is approved to participate in the program through the existing U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 7(a) lending program and additional lenders approved by the Department of Treasury.

This could be the bank you already use, or a nearby bank. There are thousands of banks that already participate in the SBA's lending programs, including numerous community banks. You do not have to visit any government institution to apply for the program. You can call your bank or find SBA-approved lenders in your area through SBA's online [Lender Match](#) tool. You can call your local [Small Business Development Center](#) or [Women's Business Center](#) and they will provide free assistance and guide you to lenders. The Department of Treasury will also be in charge of authorizing new lenders, including non-bank lenders, to help meet the needs of small business owners.

Who is eligible for the loan?

You are eligible for a loan if you are a small business that employs 500 employees or fewer, or if your business is in an industry that has an [employee-based size standard through SBA](#) that is higher than 500 employees. In addition, if you are a restaurant, hotel, or a business that falls within the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code 72, "Accommodation and Food Services," and each of your locations has 500 employees or fewer, you are eligible. Tribal businesses, 501(c)(19) veteran organizations, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits, including religious organizations, will be eligible for the program. Nonprofit organizations are subject to [SBA's affiliation standards](#). Independently owned franchises with under 500 employees, who are approved by SBA, are also eligible. Eligible franchises can be found through [SBA's Franchise Directory](#).

When is the application deadline for the Paycheck Protection Program?

Applicants are eligible to apply for the PPP loan until June 30th, 2020.

I am an independent contractor or gig economy worker, am I eligible?

Yes. Sole proprietors, independent contractors, gig economy workers, and self-employed individuals are all eligible for the Paycheck Protection Program.

What is the maximum amount I can borrow?

The amount any small business is eligible to borrow is 250 percent of their average monthly payroll expenses, up to a total of \$10 million. This amount is intended to cover 8 weeks of payroll expenses and any additional amounts for making payments towards debt obligations. This 8 week period may be applied to any time frame between February 15, 2020 and June 30, 2020. Seasonal business expenses will be measured using a 12-week period beginning February 15, 2019, or March 1, 2019, whichever the seasonal employer chooses.

How can I use the money such that the loan will be forgiven?

The amount of principal that may be forgiven is equal to the sum of expenses for payroll, and existing interest payments on mortgages, rent payments, leases, and utility service agreements. Payroll costs include employee salaries (up to an annual rate of pay of \$100,000), hourly wages and cash tips, paid sick or medical leave, and group health insurance premiums. If you would like to use the Paycheck Protection Program for other business-related expenses, like inventory, you can, but that portion of the loan will not be forgiven.

When is the loan forgiven?

The loan is forgiven at the end of the 8-week period after you take out the loan. Borrowers will work with lenders to verify covered expenses and the proper amount of forgiveness.

What is the covered period of the loan?

The covered period during which expenses can be forgiven extends from February 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Borrowers can choose which 8 weeks they want to count towards the covered period, which can start as early as February 15, 2020.

How much of my loan will be forgiven?

The purpose of the Paycheck Protection Program is to help you retain your employees, at their current base pay. If you keep all of your employees, the entirety of the loan will be forgiven. If you still lay off employees, the forgiveness will be reduced by the percent decrease in the number of employees. If your total payroll expenses on workers making less than \$100,000 annually decreases by more than 25 percent, loan forgiveness will be reduced by the same amount. If you have already laid off some employees, you can still be forgiven for the full amount of your payroll cost if you rehire your employees by June 30, 2020.

Am I responsible for the forgiven loan amount?

No, if the full principal of the PPP loan is forgiven, the borrower is not responsible for the interest accrued in the 8-week covered period. The remainder of the loan that is not forgiven will operate according to the loan terms agreed upon by you and the lender.

What are the interest rate and terms for the loan amount that is not forgiven?

The terms of the loan not forgiven may differ on a case-by-case basis. However, the maximum terms of the loan feature a 10-year term with interest capped at 1 percent and a 100 percent loan guarantee by the SBA. You will not have to pay any fees on the loan, and collateral requirements and personal guarantees are waived. Loan payments will be deferred for at least six months and up to one year starting at the origination of the loan.

Can I apply for more than one PPP loan?

No, a qualifying entity is limited to one PPP loan. Each loan will be registered under a Taxpayer Identification Number at SBA to prevent multiple loans to the same entity.

I took out a bridge loan through my state. Am I eligible to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program?

Yes, you can take out a state bridge loan and are still be eligible for the PPP loan.

If I have applied for, or received an Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) related to Covid-19 before the Paycheck Protection Program became available, will I be able to refinance into a PPP loan?

Yes. If you received an EIDL loan related to COVID-19 between January 31, 2020 and the date at which the PPP becomes available, you would be able to refinance the EIDL into the PPP for loan forgiveness purposes. However, you may not take out an EIDL and a PPP for the same purposes. Remaining portions of the EIDL, for purposes other than those laid out in loan forgiveness terms for a PPP loan, would remain a loan. If you took advantage of an emergency EIDL grant award of up to \$10,000, that amount would be subtracted from the amount forgiven under PPP.

Does the lending institution need to be SBA qualified to participate in the program?

All existing SBA-certified lenders will be given delegated authority to speedily process PPP loans. That's most (but not all) banks and credit unions in KS.

All federally insured depository institutions, federally insured credit unions, and Farm Credit System institutions are eligible to participate in this program.

A broad set of additional lenders can begin making loans as soon as they are approved and enrolled in the program. New lenders will need to submit their application to DelegatedAuthority@sba.gov to apply with the SBA.

Where can borrowers and lenders learn more about the Payment Protection Program?

[About the Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\)](#)

[PPP Topline](#)

[PPP for Lenders](#)

[PPP for Borrowers](#)

[PPP Application for Borrowers](#)

[SBA Interim Final Rule on PPP](#)

[Treasury FAQs about PPP](#)

Other Economic Relief for Small Businesses

What are Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs)?

Kansas is included in the SBA's Economic Injury Disaster declaration and small businesses in the state have access to the loan program. The SBA program allows for loans up to \$2 million with interest rates for small businesses at 3.75 percent and nonprofits at 2.75 percent. Repayment plans can be up to 30 years. Those eligible for an EIDL are the following with 500 or fewer employees: sole proprietorships; independent contractors; cooperatives and employee owned businesses; tribal small businesses; small agricultural cooperatives; and most private non-profits of any size.

What's the difference between an Economic Injury Disaster Loan and a 7(a) loan?

There are a number of differences in terms of access and terms. Three key differences are that EIDLs can be up to the amount of \$2 million and 7(a) loans can be up to \$10 million. Second, EIDLs come directly from the Treasury and 7(a) loans are accessed through lenders and then guaranteed by the SBA. Third, you apply for EIDLs via the SBA website and apply for 7(a) loans with financial lenders. In other words, 7(a) loans do not require direct interface with the SBA.

How do I apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan?

You can apply online at SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Assistance webpage, which can be found [here](#).

What is an Emergency Economic Injury Grant?

These grants provide an advance of up to \$10,000 to small businesses and private non-profits impacted by COVID-19 within days of applying for an SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan. To access the advance, you first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. The advance does not need to be repaid, and may be used to keep employees on payroll, to pay for sick leave, meet increased production costs due to supply chain disruptions, or pay business obligations, including debts, rent and mortgage payments.

How do I apply for an Emergency Economic Injury Grant?

You first apply for an EIDL and then request the advance. Those eligible for an EIDL and who have been in operation since January 31, 2020.

Can an employer delay payroll taxes due to COVID-19?

Employers and self-employed individuals may defer payment of the employer share of the Social Security tax they otherwise are responsible for paying to the federal government with respect to their employees. Employers generally are responsible for paying a 6.2-percent Social Security tax on employee wages. The provision requires that the deferred employment tax be paid over the following two years, with half of the amount required to be paid by December 31, 2021 and the other half by December 31, 2022. Deferral is not provided to employers receiving assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program.

Employee Retention Credit

What is the Employee Retention Credit?

This is a refundable payroll tax credit for 50 percent of wages paid by employers to employees during the COVID-19 crisis. The credit is available to employers whose (1) operations were fully or partially suspended, due to a COVID-19 related shut-down order, or (2) gross receipts declined by more than 50 percent when compared to the same quarter in the prior year.

The credit is based on qualified wages paid to the employee. For employers with greater than 100 full-time employees, qualified wages are wages paid to employees when they are not providing services due to the COVID-19-related circumstances described above. For eligible employers with 100 or fewer full-time employees, all employee wages qualify for the credit, whether the employer is open for business or subject to a shut-down order. The credit is provided for the first \$10,000 of compensation, including health benefits, paid to an eligible employee.

The credit is provided for wages paid or incurred from March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Please note that the credit is not available to employers receiving assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program.

What businesses qualify for the employee retention credit?

Any employer, regardless of size, is eligible for the credit during calendar year 2020 if the business: (1) is fully or partially suspended due to a governmental order related to COVID-19, or (2) experiences a significant decline in gross receipts (i.e., a reduction of 50 percent of gross receipts from the same quarter in 2019). The credit also applies to tax-exempt organizations if the operation of the organization is fully or partially suspended due to the circumstances described in (1) above. The credit generally does not apply to governmental employers, including the U.S. Government, state and local governments, or any agency of the foregoing.

Is the credit limited to businesses affected by COVID-19?

Yes. The credit only applies to qualified wages paid by a business whose operations have been fully or partially suspended pursuant to a governmental order related to COVID-19, or have experienced a significant decline (i.e., 50 percent) in gross receipts, as described above, during the period from March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Does the credit only apply to small businesses?

No. For eligible employers with 100 or fewer full-time employees, the credit applies to all employee wages. In contrast, eligible employers with greater than 100 full-time employees may only take into account qualified wages paid to employees when they are not providing services due to a governmental order related to COVID-19.

How much is the credit? How is it calculated?

The credit is equal to 50 percent of the qualified wages paid by the employer with respect to each employee. The amount of qualified wages with respect to any employee for all calendar quarters in 2020 cannot exceed \$10,000. In other words, there is a \$10,000 total cap on the credit per employee for the 2020 tax year.

How much of an employee's compensation counts toward the credit? Do health care costs count?

The definition of qualified wages differs depending on the size of the business. For employers with more than 100 full-time employees, qualified wages include wages paid to employees when they are not providing services due to a governmental order related to COVID-19. If an employee is performing services on a reduced schedule, wages paid to the employee are only treated as qualified wages if they exceed what the employee would have otherwise been paid for the services performed. In that case, employers will receive a credit for the difference between the total wages paid to the employee and the amount the employer would have paid for the reduced hours or services actually provided by the employee.

For eligible employers with 100 or fewer full-time employees, all employee wages qualify for the credit, whether or not the employee is providing services to the employer.

Regardless of business size, qualified wages include certain healthcare costs paid by an employer to maintain a group health plan.

Qualified wages do not include wages taken into account for purposes of the payroll tax credit for required paid sick leave or paid family leave as provided in Division G of H.R.

6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). This exception prevents both credits from applying to the same wages paid by an employer.

Does it matter if the business is a corporation? Does it apply to limited liability companies (LLCs), S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietors?

The credit is available to corporations as well as pass-through entities, such as LLCs, S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietors. The credit also is available to most tax-exempt organizations. Although the credit is available to all entity types, the business must meet the eligibility requirements – see Q&A above.

Do I have to wait until my business files its 2020 tax return to claim the credit?

No. The tax credit may be claimed against the employer portion of employment taxes, including Social Security and Railroad Retirement payroll taxes. To the extent the credit exceeds the employer portion of employment taxes due, the credit is treated as an overpayment and is refundable to the employer. The IRS is expected to provide guidance regarding the process for claiming the credit and receiving the refund. See [Coronavirus Tax Relief](#) on the IRS.gov website.

Does the business have to pay back the credit?

No. As long as the employer meets the requirements for the credit (as described in the Q&A above), the employer does not have to repay the credit or the resulting refunds.

What if the business claims the FFCRA credit for mandatory sick leave and/or family leave?

If the business claims the FFCRA credit for mandatory sick leave and/or family leave, the wages associated with the FFCRA credit are not eligible as qualified wages for the employee retention credit. This prevents both credits from applying to the same wages paid by an employer.

Is the credit available if the business receives one of the new SBA loans under the CARES Act?

The credit is not available to employers receiving a small business interruption loan under the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (CARES Act section 1102).

How long is the credit available?

The credit is available for qualified wages paid from March 13, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Is this credit different than the payroll tax credit created for paid sick and family leave related to COVID-19?

Yes. These are different credits.

Where can I get more information on the Employer Retention Credit?

The IRS is expected to provide guidance regarding the credit, which will be available on the IRS.gov website – see [Coronavirus Tax Relief](#).

Unemployment Insurance

The CARES Act provides for an additional \$600 per week payment to the unemployed. Who gets the extra \$600?

An additional \$600 per week payment will be made to all those eligible for and receiving unemployment insurance payments for weeks of unemployment beginning when the state first elects to participate and ending on or before July 31, 2020. This includes all those receiving unemployment insurance payments: regular Unemployment Compensation (regular UI), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (the new program for those not traditionally covered by UI such as the self-employed, independent contractors, or gig workers), or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (the additional 13 weeks of federally-funded unemployment insurance payments to help those who remain unemployed after weeks of state unemployment insurance payments are no longer available).

Does an employer have to lay the person off for them to get unemployment insurance payments?

No. An employer can furlough workers, who will then be eligible for unemployment insurance payments (this is not a new feature of unemployment insurance). It is also possible for an employer to continue to pay an employee's health benefits during a furlough for example, which would still allow the employee to receive unemployment insurance payments until they are called back to work.

Who is eligible for unemployment insurance due to the CARES Act that is not traditionally eligible for unemployment?

The CARES Act creates a temporary federal UI program for individuals not otherwise eligible for UI payments (e.g., self-employed, independent contractors, gig economy workers): Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). This program will provide payment for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after January 27 and ending on or before December 31, 2020. The Department of Labor will provide final guidance on those eligible, but others will also be eligible such as those who had job offer and who would have started work soon, those with a limited work history that would traditionally make them ineligible for unemployment insurance payments, church employees, and others.

How much can people receive from Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, the new temporary program for those not traditionally eligible for unemployment insurance?

The benefit amount will be equal to the weekly benefit amount as calculated under state law based on recent earnings, the same way regular UI payments are calculated. The minimum benefit would be equal to the minimum benefit under Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), which is half of the state's average weekly UI benefit.

What information will the self-employed and independent contractors need to provide to receive unemployment insurance under this new program?

States will follow their traditional process to determine eligibility for unemployment insurance, using wage records they already have for this purpose. For those for whom the state might not have wage data, the person applying will need to provide tax records to document prior earnings (following the process states use for the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program, which this new program is modeled after).

What happens to those who are already unemployed and whose state unemployment insurance payments have ended or are ending soon?

Section 2107 of the CARES act creates the “Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation” program, which provides for up to 13 additional weeks of federally financed UI payments for individuals who exhaust state and federal unemployment insurance payments and are able, available, and actively seeking work, subject to COVID-19-related flexibilities.

Do unemployment insurance payments count as income?

Yes, unemployment benefits are counted as unearned income for federal tax purposes, and additional unemployment insurance payments provided by the CARES Act count toward eligibility for means-tested benefits (other than Medicaid).

Where can I find more information about unemployment insurance?

Congressional Research Service Reports (public links)

- [The Fundamentals of Unemployment Compensation](#)
- [H.R. 6201: Paid Leave and Unemployment Insurance Responses to COVID-19](#)
- [Unemployment Insurance Provisions in the CARES Act \(H.R. 748, as Amended\)](#)
- [Unemployment Insurance: Programs and Benefits](#)

Department of Labor Guidance

- U.S. DOL, "[Unemployment Compensation \(UC\) for Individuals Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)" (UIPL 10-20; 3/12/20).
- U.S. DOL, "[U.S. DOL, "Unemployment Compensation \(UC\) for Individuals Affected by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)"](#)" (UIPL 10-20; 3/12/20).

Helpful COVID-19 Resources

- [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [Kansas Department of Public Health](#)
- [US Treasury Coronavirus Information](#)
- [IRS Coronavirus Information](#)
- [IRS Rebate Checks Information](#)
- [Paycheck Protection Program \(Small Business Loans\)](#)
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loans](#)
- [US Department of Labor](#)
- [Kansas Department of Labor](#)

*Links direct you to the COVID-19 landing page for each institution.