

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CAROLYN M. HULL
GENERAL MANAGER



1200 W. 7TH STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90017

ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

DATE: April 20, 2020

TO: LA's Workforce Development System

FROM: Gerardo Ruvalcaba, Director
Workforce Development System

**SUBJECT: WDS INFORMATION BULLETIN No. 20-31
ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA ANNOUNCED IN RESPONSE
TO COVID-19**

EFFECTIVE DATE

This bulletin is effective upon issuance.

PURPOSE

This bulletin provides information on additional programs announced by Governor Newsom to:

- Help mitigate the impacts the COVID-19 pandemic upon the Unemployment Compensation (UC) program;
- Provide a "one-stop shop" to provide federal assistance to those who may not qualify for UC assistance including the self-employed, individuals who may be employees but who lack sufficient work history and independent contractors; and
- Provide a program to provide disaster relief to undocumented immigrants impacted by COVID-19.

The Workforce Development System operators should continue to stay abreast of such programs that benefit their customers.

BACKGROUND

In order to help stop the spread of the viral outbreak of COVID-19, on March 19, 2020, Gov. Newsom and Mayor Garcetti issued stay at home orders that have severely impacted economic activity. In the last four weeks alone, 2.7 million Californians have filed for unemployment benefits, creating a strain on the system and frustrating many who have tried and failed to obtain benefits. In addition, many Californians do not qualify for traditional unemployment benefits and need other sources of assistance.

This WIOA Title I financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CALL CENTER HOURS

At the Governor's direction, the Employment Development Department (EDD) will launch a new call center on Monday, April 20, 2020, that will operate seven (7) days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Unemployment Insurance Branch will be upstaffed with 1,340 employees, including 740 EDD employees and 600 employees from across state government. The Governor also directs EDD to expedite access to the Work Share program to avert layoffs.

ONE-STOP SHOP FOR THOSE APPLYING FOR PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

The EDD will also create a one-stop shop for individuals applying for unemployment insurance (UI) and the new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program starting April 28, 2020. The PUA will provide federally funded benefits distinct from the UI program for certain individuals out of work or partially unemployed due to COVID-19. This includes the self-employed, individuals who may be employees but who lack sufficient work history, and independent contractors. Federal guidelines include gig workers, and California's gig workers will continue to be protected by the state's strong laws against misclassification in the administration of PUA. PUA benefits will be issued within 24-48 hours, not the traditional 21 days for regular UI claims.

DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE FUNDING FOR IMMIGRANT WORKERS

The Governor announced \$75 million in statewide Disaster Relief Assistance funding to provide financial support for immigrant workers affected by COVID-19. The State's \$75 million Disaster Relief Fund will support undocumented Californians impacted by COVID-19 who are ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits and disaster relief, including the CARES Act, due to their immigration status. Approximately 150,000 undocumented adult Californians will receive a one-time cash benefit of \$500 per adult, with a cap of \$1,000 per household, to deal with the specific needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. Individuals can apply for support beginning next month.

The state's Disaster Relief Fund will be dispersed through a community-based model of regional nonprofits with expertise and experience serving undocumented communities. Specific information on how this program will be rolled out is forthcoming.

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS COMMIT TO SUPPORT UNDOCUMENTED CALIFORNIANS

In addition to the \$75 million in state funding, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), a network of foundations focused on immigration issues, has committed to raising \$50 million to support direct financial assistance to families of undocumented immigrants through the California Immigrant Resilience Fund, with initial lead investments of \$5.5 million from Emerson Collective, Blue Shield of California Foundation, The California Endowment, The James Irvine Foundation, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and an anonymous donor, among others. Those interested in supporting this fund can donate at www.immigrantfundCA.org.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

California has developed an immigrant resource guide available at <https://covid19.ca.gov/guide-immigrant-californians/> to provide information about COVID-19 related assistance, including public benefits, which are available to immigrant Californians.

California is seeking to take appropriate steps to ensure care and treatment for COVID-19 for its residents, regardless of immigration status. Given the current public health emergency, COVID-19 testing, evaluation and treatment services are being deemed as emergency services under Medi-Cal, regardless of the location where care is received. Deeming COVID-19 testing and related treatment services as an emergency will entitle all Medi-Cal beneficiaries, regardless of their scope of coverage under Medi-Cal or their documentation status, to receive all medically necessary inpatient or outpatient services related to a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Additional information about the state's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts may be found at <https://www.gov.ca.gov/california-takes-action-to-combat-covid-19/>.

Visit covid19.ca.gov or covid19.ca.gov/es for critical steps Californians can take to stay healthy, as well as resources available to those impacted by the outbreak.

WDS CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact your assigned Program Monitor.

GR:TJ:DB:DG:cg