Unemployment Payments

Have you lost your job or had your hours cut or cannot work because of COVID-19? There might be help for you!

How to apply for unemployment compensation?

1. Go to Jobs4tn.gov
2. Click on “Unemployment Benefits”
3. Select “File a Claim”
4. If you have an account sign in by entering your username and password
5. If you do not have an account, click “Next” to proceed to the next screen
6. Follow the prompts and enter all required information
7. Select “lack of work” as your reason for unemployment
8. Mark on the application that your unemployment was caused by COVID-19

When should I apply?

Apply right away! The sooner you apply, the sooner your claim can be processed and you can start receiving payments if you are eligible.

What information do I need to apply for unemployment compensation?

- Social Security Number
- Driver’s License or State Identification Card
- Complete mailing address
- Phone number
- Email address
- Names and addresses of all previous employers for in the last 18 months.
- Banking Information

What if I need help with my claim?

If you have any questions pertaining to your claim, please contact the help line at 877-813-0950

Website assistance https://tdlwd.zendesk.com (This link will allow you to create an email request ticket, to correspond with an agent regarding any inquiries that you may have. An agent will respond within 48-72 hours of the ticket being submitted).
What happens if I get denied?

Call us! Legal Aid may be able to help you appeal if you’ve been wrongly denied unemployment.

How much will I get?

The maximum weekly payment in Tennessee is usually $275 before federal taxes are deducted, but weekly payments have been increased to $875 through July 31, 2020. The amount of your weekly payment depends on the amount you earned at work.

How long can I receive unemployment payments?

In Tennessee, you may receive Unemployment Insurance up to 39 weeks.

Can I apply for unemployment if I’m undocumented?

DACA recipients with work authorization may be eligible for unemployment.

Do you have children?

If you’ve lost your job due to COVID-19, or if your hours have been significantly cut back, you may be eligible to apply for Emergency Cash Assistance from the Department of Human Services (DHS). To apply for this, go to https://tdhs.service-now.com/relief?id=relief_registration. You may be able to get both unemployment insurance AND cash assistance!

To qualify, you must:

1) Have been employed as of March 11, 2020.
2) Have lost employment or at least 50% of income because of the pandemic.
3) Have a child under 18 in the family, or a pregnant woman
4) Have a valid social security number
5) can’t have more than $2,000 in resources.
6) Be below income threshold.