



Expansion of Michigan Unemployment Benefits Due to Coronavirus

Michigan Has Temporarily Expanded Who Can Apply for Unemployment Benefits and Made It Easier to Apply for Them

Who Can Apply?

- You are fired; or
- Your place of employment closed; or
- You are unable to work because you provide childcare due to a school closing; or
- You are immunocompromised or you are forced to self-quarantine, and you are not already receiving paid family and medical leave or disability benefit; or
- You are unable to work due to caretaking for someone exposed to the coronavirus and you are not already receiving paid family and medical leave or disability benefit.

What Is Expanded?

- People affected by the coronavirus are now eligible to apply for benefits.
- You may be eligible even if you exhausted your benefit weeks.
- Benefit periods are increased from 20 to 26 weeks.
- The application eligibility period is increased from 14 to 28 days.
- You may register online or by phone.
- Normal work search requirements are suspended.

Can I Apply If I Am an Immigrant?

- Yes, however you will need to show (1) Proof of valid work authorization and (2) Proof that you earned enough "qualifying wages" during the past six months.
- For wages to be qualifying, you must be a U.S. Citizen or have a qualifying immigration status at the time that you apply for benefits.
- If you include a social security number make sure that it belongs to you.

Do Unemployment Benefits Make Me a Public Charge?

- No. They are not a factor in a public charge determination.

How Do I Apply?

- Register for a MiWAM account at <https://miwam.unemployment.state.mi.us/ClmMiWAM/> ; or
- Call 1-866-500-0017. Spanish-speaking option available.
- For further filing instructions, including a list of the documents that you will need to apply, visit https://www.michigan.gov/documents/uia/160_-_Claiming_UI_Benefit_In_Michigan_-_Jan2014_444213_7.pdf.

Need Further Assistance?

- Farmworker Legal Services/Michigan Immigrant Rights Center: 800-968-4046
- University of Michigan Workers' Rights Clinic: 734-936-2000
- Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice: 313-993-4505