

Local 1181-1061
Amalgamated Transit Union A.F.L.-C.T.O.

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To: Local 1181 members
Date: April 2, 2020
Re: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

As we continue to face the coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis caused by it, the Union wishes to apprise our members of the \$2 trillion stimulus package enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Trump--The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In reviewing the potential impact of the law on our members and their families, we highlight the following emergency appropriations.

Recovery Rebates

Individual taxpayers can receive advance refunds of credits against 2020 taxes ("rebates"), up to \$1,200 for individuals (\$2,400 for joint filers) with a \$500 credit for each child. The rebate amount is based upon 2018 adjusted gross income (or 2019 if a tax return has already been filed). The amount of each rebate is phased out by \$5 for every \$100 in excess of \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,500 for heads of households, and \$150,000 for joint filers. The rebates are completely phased out for single filers with 2018 (or 2019, if applicable) adjusted gross income over \$99,000, heads of household with \$146,500, and joint filers with \$198,000.

The rebate is not available to nonresidents or to any individual who can be claimed as a dependent on another person's return. Also, eligible individuals and their children must have a Social Security number, although there is an exception for military spouses.

Unemployment Insurance

Individuals who receive unemployment benefits will be eligible for an additional \$600 per week above existing benefit levels for up to four months. This will be paid in addition to and at the same time (but not necessarily in the same check) as regular unemployment benefits. Combined with the underlying state unemployment benefits, this may replace more than 100 percent of wages. Congress found this to be necessary because the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented situation and inadequate wage replacement might force workers to continue working in violation of public health orders.

If individuals remain unemployed after state unemployment benefits are no longer available, the federal government will fund up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits.

In New York State, the Governor suspended the one-week waiting period typically required to receive unemployment benefits for individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act reimburses states for benefits provided during the first week.

School District Aid

\$13.5 billion from an Education Stabilization Fund of \$30.75 billion is available to the States for elementary and secondary school emergency grants, of which the States will then distribute 90 percent of funds to local educational agencies to use for coronavirus-response activities.

\$3 billion in emergency education relief from the Education Stabilization Fund is also available to the Governors of the States to allocate at their discretion. This funding can be used to assist local educational agencies that the State deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus. This funding can also be used to provide support to any local educational agency or education related entity within a State that the Governor deems essential for carrying out emergency educational services to students for authorized activities and the protection of education-related jobs.

The CARES Act expressly provides that an entity that receives funds from the Education Stabilization Fund “shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus.”

This requirement is not a guarantee that our members will continue to be paid during any closures. However, the Union will demand, consistent with the CARES Act, that school districts that receive these funds continue to ensure that school bus workers are paid “to the greatest extent practicable.”

Public Transportation Aid

\$25 billion is available for Transit Infrastructure Grants to prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus. Public transit agencies, such as the MTA, may use the funds for operating expenses including reimbursement for operating costs to maintain service and lost revenue due to the coronavirus public health emergency, the purchase of personal protective equipment, and paying the administrative leave of operations personnel due to reductions in service.

This funding is a start and the Union will demand, consistent with the CARES Act, that the MTA and paratransit companies use these funds for operating expenses (including wages, benefits, and paid leave) and personal protective equipment to ensure members’ safety.

Next Steps

The CARES Act is a step forward for our members in the midst of this crisis. But there is more work to be done on multiple fronts--when federal funding arrives in New York, when new legislation is drafted, and when we confront employers of Local 1181 members to protect and advance employee rights--and the Union will be there for our members throughout these unprecedented times.

We will keep you updated with significant developments. As always, please contact your Union delegate or the Union office if you have any questions. Together we fight, together we win.

In Solidarity,



Michael Cordiello, President/Business Agent
and the Executive Board
ATU Local 1181-1061

RELIEF FOR WORKERS AFFECTED BY CORONAVIRUS ACT

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW AND DO ABOUT THE CARES ACT



The federal CARES Act was signed into law March 27, 2020. The Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for New Yorkers. Here's what you need to know.

IF YOU ARE ALREADY APPROVED FOR UI BENEFITS:

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- **Do Nothing.**
Your benefits will automatically be updated.
Please do not call, it will only make it difficult for others to reach an agent.

WHAT YOU MAY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE

- 26 weeks of UI benefits.
- An additional \$600/week until 7/31/2020.
(Beginning 4/5/2020)
- An additional 13 weeks of UI benefits if you are still unemployed after 26 weeks.

IF YOU ARE FILING A NEW UI CLAIM:

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Apply online at labor.ny.gov/signin.
- You may also call **1-888-209-8124** if you do not have access to a computer.

WHAT YOU MAY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE

- 26 weeks of UI benefits.
- An additional \$600/week until 7/31/2020.
(Beginning 4/5/2020)
- An additional 13 weeks of UI benefits if you are still unemployed after 26 weeks.

IF YOU ARE NOT TRADITIONALLY ELIGIBLE FOR UI BENEFITS:

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Check your eligibility for PUA labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/pandemic-unemployment-assistance.pdf
- If you believe you are eligible, apply online at labor.ny.gov/signin.
- You may also call **1-888-209-8124** if you do not have access to a computer.

WHAT YOU MAY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE

- 26 weeks of PUA benefits.
- An additional \$600/week until 7/31/2020.
(Beginning 4/5/2020)
- An additional 13 weeks of benefits if you are still unemployed after 26 weeks.

IF YOU'VE EXHAUSTED 26 WEEKS OF BENEFITS AFTER 7/1/2019:

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO

- Apply online at labor.ny.gov/signin.
- You may also call **1-888-209-8124** if you do not have access to a computer.

WHAT YOU MAY QUALIFY TO RECEIVE

- 13 weeks of benefits.
- An additional \$600/week until 7/31/2020.
(Beginning 4/5/2020)

MORE INFORMATION:

See Frequently Asked Questions About UI During the Coronavirus Emergency:
labor.ny.gov/ui/coronavirus-faq.shtm

To apply for UI benefits file on these days:

Filing for UI benefits is based on your last name.

A - F file on Monday | G - N file on Tuesday | O - Z file on Wednesday

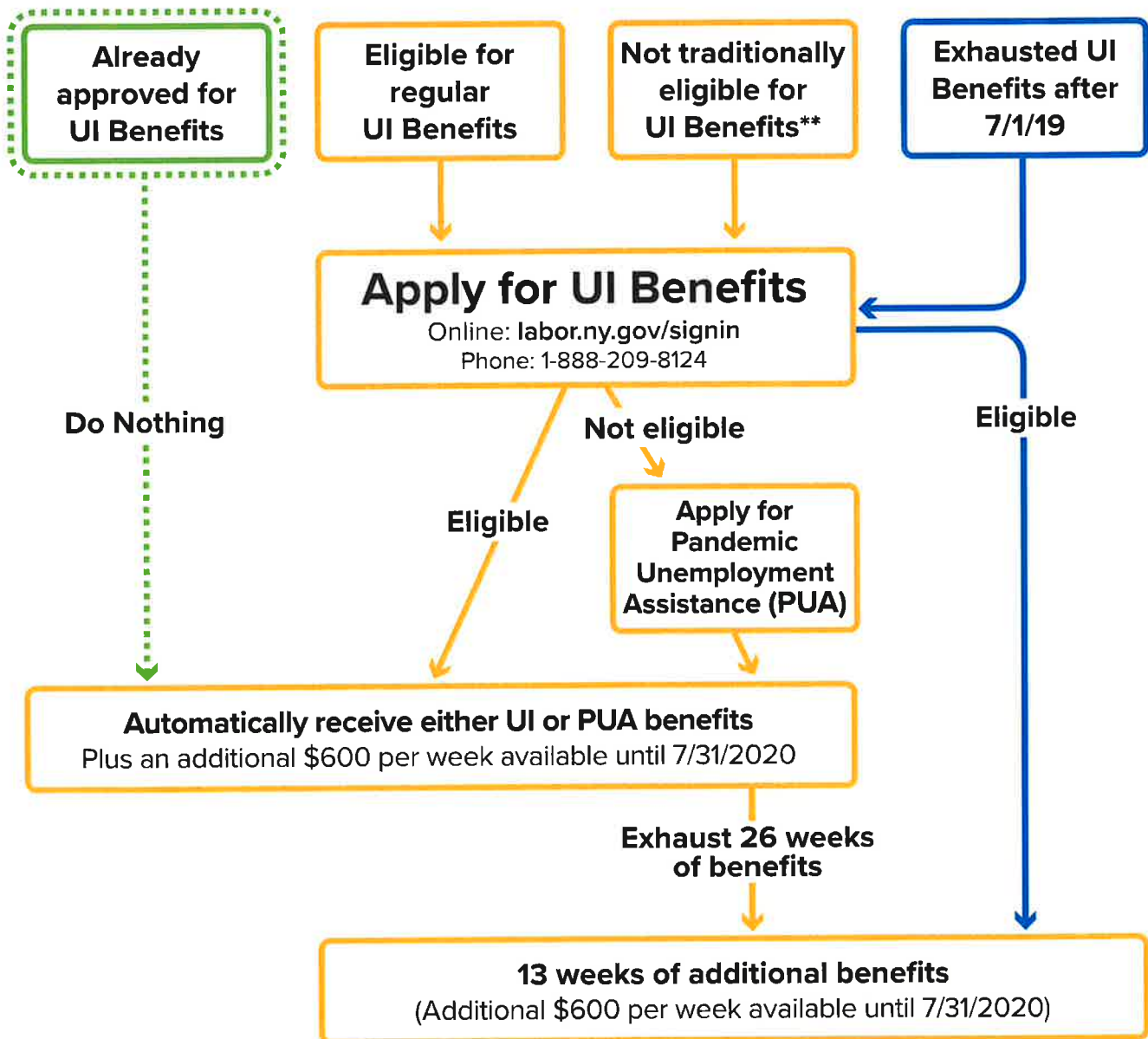
Missed your day? File on Thurs-Fri-Sat

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