



## TWO TRILLION DOLLARS CARES ACT: "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act"

### Federal Cash "Stimulus Check"

- **Who exactly qualifies for a payment?**
  - Individuals with adjusted gross incomes up to \$75,000 a year will be eligible for the full \$1,200 check. Reduced checks will go out to individuals making up to \$99,000 a year (the payment amount falls by \$5 for every \$100 in income above \$75,000).
  - Married couples are eligible for a \$2,400 check as long as their adjusted gross income is under \$150,000 a year. Reduced checks, on a sliding scale, will go out to married couples who earn up to \$198,000. Married couples also will receive an additional \$500 for every child under 17.
  - People who file as a "head of household" (typically single parents with children) are eligible for a \$1,200 check if they have an adjusted gross income up to \$112,500 a year. Reduced checks on a sliding scale are available for heads of household earning up to \$136,500 annually. Heads of household will also receive an additional \$500 per child under 17.
- To get a stimulus check, you must have filed a tax return in the previous 2 years; if you did not in 2018, file 2019 right away
- If you e-file and sign up for direct deposit, the stimulus check should come in the "next two or three weeks" vs. "at least six to eight weeks" if you file by mail
- Checks will be issued via direct deposit or mailed to address on tax return
- You should receive a letter stating where/when you may expect a check; if you do not receive this letter, contact IRS
- The Federal rebate is tax free
- Social Security recipients & Disability recipients are eligible for this rebate
- The stimulus check will be exempt from wage garnishments with the exception of child support

CARES Act Calculator

### Unemployment Benefits

- \$250 Billion for more Unemployment Insurance than already provided
- Already receive 60 to 70% of wages for 26 weeks
- This law adds:
  - additional \$600/week for up to 4 months, through July 31
  - additional 13 weeks (so up to 39 weeks) at regular rate

### **Unemployment Benefits for Formerly Ineligible**

- Extends eligibility to self-employed, gig workers, independent contractors, freelancers
- Amount based on previous income formula
- Eligibility for part-time workers, furloughed employees who can't work due to 'shelter in place'
- Extends eligibility to newly employed who lost work due to COVID-19 furlough
- For these "new categories", Pandemic Unemployment Assistance will be ½ average state benefits + \$600/week through December, 2020 (and reduced benefits for "substantial reduction in hours" are still valid)

### **Who Is Not Eligible for Unemployment Insurance?**

- Workers still working (from home or in workplace)
- Workers receiving paid sick leave or paid family leave
- New entrants to work force who have no work history and cannot find a job
- (perhaps all the older college students whose schools have shut down; but work-study money provided if they were already in such programs)

### **How to Get UI Benefits**

- Apply at
  - [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov)
- When in doubt, apply – the EDD will make determinations

### **OTHER BENEFITS FOR WORKERS & THEIR FAMILIES**

- **Food Assistance**
  - \$15.5 Billion for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Food Stamps
  - \$8.8 Billion for Child Nutrition Programs
  - \$450 Million to Food Banks
- **Student Loans**
  - For **Federal government** loans
    - Already waived 2 months payments and interest
    - Updated: all payments suspended until September 30
    - No interest for this suspension period should be charged
    - Watch loan notices closely to ensure compliance
    - Employers may offer up to \$5250 to help repay loans, and won't be counted towards income ; includes tuition payments for classes by employer
  - No such program yet for Perkins loans, Discover loans, Sallie Mae loans, or Wells Fargo loans
- **Eviction Relief for Renters**
  - **Federal Relief**
    - Temporary 4 month suspension on all evictions for failure to

- pay rent
    - For renters whose landlords have mortgages backed or owned by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and other Federal entities
    - Landlords of these properties cannot charge penalties or fees for failure to pay rent during this suspension
  - **California Relief**
    - No evictions through at least May 31st if non-payment related to Covid-19 Crisis
    - No eviction enforcement by law enforcement or Courts
      - (in other words, the Sheriff is NOT coming)
    - Check local city and county ordinances for the city in which you reside
  - **Mortgage Relief for Homeowners**
    - **Federal Relief**
      - Homeowners w/ FHA, VA, USDA, 184/184A mortgage, or one backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac
      - Eligible for 6 month forbearance on mortgage payments, w/ possibility of another 6 months
      - **Will have to pay it later; so may want to keep paying if possible**
    - **California Relief**
      - 90 day grace period for payment of mortgages (all) – work w “loaner”
      - For at least 60 days, no foreclosures or evictions
      - For at least 90 days, waiver or refund mortgage-related late fees
  - **Child Care Development Block Grant**
    - \$3.5 Billion for child care programs to maintain critical operations
      - To meet emergency staffing needs
      - To ensure first responders, health care workers, sanitation workers, and others deemed “essential workers” can access child care
  - **Veterans Affairs**
    - \$16 Billion to help cover treatment of veterans for coronavirus
      - For VA Hospitals, and Community Urgent Care Clinics & Emergency Rooms
      - For VA: to cover overtime for clinical staff; purchase of PPE, test kits, equipment to treat vets for virus-related maladies
  - **Cost of Utilities: Keeping the Lights on and the Home Heated**
    - \$900 Million for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
      - To help low income households with heating, lighting, energy-related home repair & maintenance
    - \$600 Million in Community Services Block Grants to States, which can be used to cover utility costs
-

As always, we hope this notice is helpful to you and your family as you deal with the financial effects of this global crisis. We are here to answer your questions and concerns and hope you and your families are doing well.

In solidarity,

Greg Bonato  
Business Manager-  
Financial Secretary