

FILING FOR UNEMPLOYMENT: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As schools and businesses close due to COVID-19, employees can apply for state unemployment insurance benefits. This is what you'll need to know in order to apply:

Timeline for Benefits

[Iowa Workforce Development](#) expects to get checks to workers in 7-10 days. It will be waiving its requirement that people look for new employment while they're out or off work.

Eligibility

To be eligible, Iowans mostly need to have worked for wages in six of the last 18 months and have earned at least \$2,500 during that period.

Reduction in Hours

Iowa allows for partial unemployment benefits. Impacted employees will still need to report their wages earned per week when filing.

How to Apply

You should [file an initial claim](#) at the beginning of the week you know you will become unemployed or start working reduced hours, Iowa Workforce Development says. The sooner you apply, the sooner you can get benefits. You can register as a new user here. <https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/UIInitialClaim/>

Apply Online or In Person

Sign in or create an online account. You will need to create a username and password. If you have applied in the past but can't remember your login information, the state will send you your username and help you reset your password.

If you don't have a computer or you have military, federal or out-of-state wages call customer service at **1-866-239-0843** between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Information Needed to Apply

- Social Security number
- Full legal name
- Names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and relationships of up to four dependents
- Mailing address, including your zip code
- Telephone number
- Name of your most recent employer as it appears on your pay stubs or W-2 forms; your
- Starting and ending work dates; your reason for leaving
- If you're not a U.S. citizen, your employment authorization number and expiration date.

After you Apply

Iowans impacted by COVID-19 can expect an expedited unemployment process and will receive a check in 7-10 days after the date the claim is filed. Iowans must still file weekly claims.

Unemployment Benefit Amount

Iowa Workforce Development uses a formula, looking at your earnings history and how many dependents you have. You'll receive a letter in the mail with your weekly benefit amount, at which point you'll have to decide if you want the weekly checks directly deposited to a bank account or provided as a debit card.

For Employers

Iowa employers will not be charged if the claim that is filed and identified is as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19. Employers will be notified about the claim, but fact-finding interviews will be waived in order to expedite the process.