

## COVID-19 / CORONAVIRUS BENEFITS UPDATE

### TEMP AGENCY WORKERS:

### YES, YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Temp agencies are laying off thousands – and sending other needy workers to potentially dangerous assignments in essential industries now operating at high volume, like food processing, warehousing and healthcare. For the benefit of all, the safety and financial security of temp workers and their families must be protected!

- **Temps who lose work, are laid off from a work assignment, or quit for a good reason ARE ELIGIBLE to collect Unemployment Insurance**
- **Many states are paying unemployment insurance benefits to workers for COVID-19 related reasons, such as:**
  - **When an individual cannot work because of a state or local government’s stay home order;**
  - **When an employer ceases operations due to COVID-19;**
  - **When an individual leaves work to provide care for a child or other dependent because of school and daycare closures; and**
  - **When an individual is quarantined and expects to return to work after quarantine is over.**
- If you are unsure whether you are eligible for unemployment, apply anyway.
- There is no penalty for applying for unemployment compensation if you are not eligible.
- Even if your temp assignment was short, you still may meet the qualifications to collect.
- **IMPORTANT!** Request a new assignment from your staffing agency before applying for unemployment insurance. Many states require this. Failure to do so may be considered a “voluntary quit” and disqualify you from benefits.
- Some states have waived work search requirements temporarily, meaning that applicants may not need to show that they are actively looking for a new job in order to get benefits.
- Rules are changing in response to the COVID-19 crisis, making it easier to qualify for benefits.

**FILE FOR BENEFITS NOW: Find your state’s unemployment [website here](#).**

Tips for applying:

You must be legally eligible to work in the U.S. to collect unemployment insurance. Have copies of your pay stubs. Many workers are able to collect up to \$600 per week additionally through July 31, 2020. You have a Right to Appeal a rejection – that’s often how temps win their case. Having an attorney or advocate is recommended, as agencies often have representation. But, it is NOT required.

*\*Disclaimer: this flyer is intended to communicate general information, and is not legal advice. Laws vary by state.*

For More Info or to Share Your Experience:

[www.TempWorkerJustice.org](http://www.TempWorkerJustice.org)