

Here's How the Government Can Help

We know this is an unprecedented time of uncertainty and anxiety for our residents. We also know that many of our residents are suffering from job losses, furloughs and reduced hours. Fortunately, there is help available.

Direct Payments

The federal government will be making one-time cash payments directly to our citizens. These payments should be issued during the month of April either by check or direct deposit. How much will you receive?

- **Individuals earning less than \$75,000 will receive \$1,200.**
- **Married couples earning less than \$150,000 will receive \$2,400.**
- **If you have children, you will receive \$500 per child.**
- **Individuals earning more than \$75,000 and less than \$99,000 – and couples earning more than \$150,000 and less than \$198,000 – are eligible for a lesser amount.**

Enhanced Unemployment Benefits

If you have lost your job, you can apply for state unemployment benefits.

<https://esd.wa.gov/unemployment>

Congress is enhancing state unemployment to provide more income and to cover more people.

- **Adds \$600 per week** for four months on top of state unemployment.
- **Adds up to 13 weeks of additional unemployment benefits** to those already enrolled but who are nearing the end of benefits.
- Expands the program to include a number of workers not normally eligible to receive unemployment benefits. This includes:
 - o Freelancers
 - o Independent contractors/gig workers
 - o Self-employed
 - o Those with limited work history
 - o Employees who are still employed, but whose hours have been reduced

It is important to apply as soon as possible. To help expedite aid, the federal government is funding the first week of benefits to encourage states to waive traditional waiting periods, but it may still take a couple of weeks to be processed.