Most people will get a one-time payment from the federal government of $1,200 per adult, $500 per child in a household to help out in this time of crisis. This will not count against other government benefits.

It will not count in determining your eligibility for MaineCare (Medicaid), SSI, Food Supplement benefits (also known as Food Stamps or SNAP), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), Heating Assistance, or federal Housing Assistance like the Section 8 programs. No program funded by the U.S government will consider it for a full year. If you still have this money in the bank after 12 months, it will be counted against any program’s asset limit.

Local city and town General Assistance will also not count the stimulus payment in deciding whether and how much help you can get. Governor Mills issued an executive order instructing cities and towns not to count the stimulus payment in General Assistance on April 28.

The extra $600 per week federal Unemployment benefit can affect some of your other government benefits.

For MaineCare, the extra $600 per week unemployment benefit will not count in deciding whether you qualify for MaineCare or your kids can get CHIP (CubCare). It will also not count in federal housing assistance programs like Section 8. So it will not have an impact on your federal housing assistance.

For other government programs, the $600 will count. The additional $600 per week, like the rest of your unemployment benefits, will count if you currently get or are applying for Food Supplement benefits (also known as Food Stamps or SNAP), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), or the federal Marketplace Healthcare subsidy at Healthcare.gov (Obamacare). These programs will count all of your unemployment benefits, including the new $600 amount, when deciding if you qualify, and the amount of your benefits.
Important note about unemployment benefits

Unemployment benefits will soon be available to thousands of Maine workers who can't normally get them, through the “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program” (PUA). If you get any unemployment benefits, you will also get the extra $600 per week.

If you don’t think you can get unemployment because you are self-employed, don’t earn enough money, or work part time or seasonally, you may be eligible now. This means you'll get a regular unemployment benefit, plus the additional $600 a week. Remember, your regular amount of unemployment will count against all public benefits, BUT the extra $600 will not be counted in figuring if you can get or keep MaineCare or CHIP (CubCare).

Looking for more resources?

If you have questions about unemployment benefits, stimulus payments, or health care, food, and housing resources, you're not alone!

- **Find more information**: maineequaljustice.org/people/covid-19-resources/
- **Ask a question**: maineequaljustice.org/people/legal-assistance-contact/
- **Join our UI group on Facebook**: facebook.com/groups/maineunemployment/, created in partnership with labor and legal allies.