



## **Additional unemployment benefits are now available under the new Lost Wage Assistance Program.**

Under an Executive Order, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing states with money to provide a temporary additional \$300 a week in unemployment benefits to people who qualify. Funds for the program are limited.

### **To be eligible you must:**

- Currently receive at least \$100 in weekly Maine unemployment benefits
- Be unemployed or partially employed due to a COVID-19 reason
- Attest that you are unemployed or partially employed due to a COVID-19 reason when you file your weekly claim

### **When will this begin and how long will it last?**

- While it is unclear exactly when people will see the increased benefit, the Maine Department of Labor is planning to start paying the benefits under this program by September 18, 2020.
- These benefits will cover the 3 weeks ending August 1, August 8, and August 15, 2020.
- The program may cover additional weeks ending after August 15, 2020. This will depend on how many states participate in this program and the availability of funds.

### **How much is the benefit?**

- \$300 dollars per week in addition to current unemployment benefits
- This replaces the \$600 additional benefit people were receiving prior to August 1, 2020.
- We know this time-limited benefit that is only half of the previous \$600/wk benefit is not enough to make ends meet. Congress still needs to act to get meaningful and ongoing relief to Mainers who need it.

**[Click here to go to the Department of Labor's website for more information.](#)**