

FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR OCRA MEMBERS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Government Benefits – General *(May cover eligible employees, independent contractors, and firm owners):*

Several U.S. Government programs can help you cover expenses for food, healthcare, housing, business, or other needs. Please visit the [benefits.gov Benefit Finder](https://www.benefits.gov) to locate these types of coronavirus resources.

Government loan benefits for small businesses through the Payment Protection Program (PPP) and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) *(May cover eligible independent contractors and firm owners):*

As of Friday, April 3, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for loans through existing SBA lenders. Starting April 10, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply for loans through existing SBA lenders. Other regulated lenders will be available to make these loans as soon as they are approved and enrolled in the program. Visit the [Small Business Administration](https://www.sba.gov) for a list of SBA lenders. *There is a funding cap, so the Treasury Department recommends applying as soon as possible.*

- [CARES Act for Small Businesses flowchart](#)
- [U.S. Chamber of Commerce Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist](#)
- [Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program \(PPP\) application](#)
- [Information on Emergency Injury Disaster Loan Assistance \(EIDL\)](#)
- Additional [disaster relief opportunities](#)

The Lawyers with Good Government Foundation also announced that 34 law firms in 30 cities across the U.S. will offer [remote legal clinics to advise small business owners](#) on stimulus bill benefits and coronavirus-related issues. Interested small business owners can [sign up to be notified when a clinic becomes available in their city](#).

Loan deferral for individuals and small businesses *(May cover eligible employees, independent contractors, and firm owners):*

Major private financial institutions and government programs have announced that those substantially affected by COVID-19 may defer payments on mortgages, student loans, and other forms of debt. These programs may help you to temporarily reduce your monthly expenses and avoid foreclosure fees.

[An article in *The Simple Dollar*](#) provides helpful resources regarding these concerns.

Paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA):

H.R. 6201, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), was the second coronavirus relief stimulus package and was enacted into law on March 18, 2020. The package includes provisions to aid American adults, including nutrition waivers, expansion of emergency family and medical leave, emergency paid sick leave, tax credits for paid sick and paid family medical leave, among other provisions.

The FFCRA regulations began April 1. Each covered employer must post a [notice of the FFCRA requirements](#) in a conspicuous place on its premises.

Additional information:

- The [full text of H.R. 6201, The Families First Coronavirus Response Act](#)
- The [U.S. House of Representatives Fact Sheet](#) on the provisions mentioned
- The U.S. Department of Labor has [additional questions and answers](#) regarding implementation of certain provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)

Individual payments from the third stimulus package *(May cover eligible employees, independent contractors, and firm owners):*

H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Act, otherwise known as the third coronavirus relief stimulus package, was enacted into law on March 27, 2020. According to the CARES Act, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will be notifying eligible individuals regarding when and how much coronavirus relief funding they can expect to receive. The individual or household relief will be in the form of either a mailed check or direct deposit.

The total amount of your stimulus relief check will be based on your adjusted gross income (AGI) from your 2019 federal tax filing (or your 2018 filing if you have not yet filed this year). Your AGI can be found on line 8b on your 2019 1040 federal tax form or line 7 of your 2018 1040 federal tax form.

The amount of the stimulus payment you receive will depend on your total income in either 2019 or 2018. If you qualify, you will *automatically* receive *one* payment by mail or direct deposit - you do not need to apply, only ensure that your taxes are filed this year or were filed last year. You will qualify for a stimulus payment if:

- You are a single U.S. resident and have an AGI less than \$99,000; or
- You file as the head of a household and earn under \$146,500; or
- You file jointly without children and earn less than \$198,000.

[The Washington Post calculator](#) can help determine your estimated payment.

Unemployment Benefits *(May cover eligible employees):*

Many states are changing their unemployment policies to offer additional support for those affected by COVID-19 due to temporary closures, illness, or quarantine.

Check out the [United States Department of Labor's Unemployment Benefit Finder](#) to find information in your state about filing for unemployment benefits or to see if you're eligible for unemployment insurance, disability insurance, paid leave, or other benefits.

Unemployment Disaster Benefits *(May cover eligible independent contractors):*

If you do not qualify for unemployment benefits, you may qualify for the [Disaster Unemployment Assistance \(DUA\) program](#), which provides unemployment benefits to individuals who have become unemployed as a direct result of a Presidentially declared major disaster (COVID-19).

**Please note that the information provided includes condensed summarizations, descriptions, or opinions about recently enacted statutes. The information is not intended, nor should it be construed, to be legal advice. Members with needs or questions concerning the specific issues mentioned should seek the guidance of competent counsel or should contact the appropriate federal agency.*