



AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

THE CARES ACT – PHASE 3 RELIEF BILL HIGHLIGHTS FOR AGMA MEMBERS IMPACTED BY COVID-19 CRISIS

We are working on getting your specific questions answered. For now, to access these new and enhanced benefits, you must apply for unemployment benefits through your state. There is no other required paperwork or application. If you are an independent contractor and are not eligible for traditional unemployment benefits, you will be able to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance instead. As a first step, visit [this link](#) to find your state.

If you have an unemployment case already open, please check with your state to determine next steps, as procedures are determined by each state. For example, New York has announced that you do NOT need to start the process over or make any updates to your existing claims.

We have received many questions from our members. We are working with our government contacts on determining answers to these questions, as very few concrete answers currently exist. We will provide you more information as soon as we can. Below is more information on the CARES Act.

I. DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

- Cash payments for individuals earning \$75,000 or less.
 - \$1200 per person/ \$2400 per couple.
 - \$500 per qualifying child.
 - Payments phase out for those earning more than \$75,000 and end completely for those earning \$99,000/\$198,000 per couple or more.

II. EXTRA UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- The CARES Act strengthened existing unemployment coverage
 - Additional 13 weeks of unemployment benefits for workers who have or will exhaust state benefits without finding new job.
 - Additional \$600 per week on top of whatever base amount worker receives from state for 4 months.
- The CARES Act created new unemployment benefits for workers who might not ordinarily qualify for unemployment benefits called “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance”
 - Pandemic Unemployment Assistance is a temporary program of unemployment benefits to workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment compensation (e.g. self-employed, contractors, gig

workers, freelancers, 1099 workers) through the end of 2020 if work lost as a direct result of the pandemic.

- Minimum benefit equal to one-half state's average weekly UI benefit PLUS \$600.)
- **File for unemployment benefits even if you are not sure you qualify!**
 - To access these new and enhanced benefits, you must apply for unemployment benefits through your state.
 - There is no other required paperwork or application.
 - If you are an independent contractor and are not eligible for traditional unemployment benefits, you will be able to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance instead.

III. STUDENT LOAN ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL LOANS

- Suspension of payments and interest accrual through September 30 for federal student loans.
- Suspension of involuntary payments and garnishments for federal student loans.
- Employers can provide tax-free contributions of up to \$5,250.

IV. INCOME TAX FILINGS

- Federal filing deadline extended until July 15, 2020.
- Check for state filing extensions.

V. INSURANCE COVERAGE

- All private insurance plans must cover COVID-19 treatments and vaccine.
- All coronavirus tests are free.

VI. SMALL BUSINESSES

- Emergency grants of up to \$10,000 are available for small businesses (fewer than 500 employees) to cover immediate operating costs. This may apply to self-employed or 1099 artists who give voice or dance lessons.
- Relief for existing loans is available for six months for small businesses already using SBA loans.
- Forgivable loans of up to \$10 million per business with any portion of loan used to maintain payroll, keep workers on the books or pay for rent, mortgage, and existing debt could be forgiven, provided workers stay employed through the end of June.

VII. FEDERAL ARTS FUNDING

- National Endowments for the Arts: \$75 million to state agencies to provide grants and other support to arts organizations.
- National Endowment for the Humanities: \$75 million.
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting: \$75 million for fiscal stabilization grants to public television and radio stations facing declines in non-federal revenues.