

Did you recently lose your job or get laid off?
Did your employer reduce your hours at work?

You could be eligible for

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

to help you pay your bills and cover expenses during this difficult time!

How to Apply for Unemployment Benefits in Nebraska

If you have lost your job or are working reduced hours because of the COVID-19 crisis, you could be eligible for unemployment benefits. File immediately as your employment status changes because the normal week waiting period has been eliminated. Please be patient.

To apply for **unemployment insurance benefits**, go to **NEworks.nebraska.gov**. This initial application could take up to an hour, so be patient and be prepared. The maximum benefit for Nebraska in 2020 is \$440/week. Your rate may vary based on your previous income level.

When you apply, you will need lots of important information, so collect it before you start your application.

- Social Security Number
- Complete home mailing address, including ZIP code
- Telephone number
- Email address
- County you live in
- Driver's license number or State ID card number
- Your bank routing number and account number if you want direct deposit. If you don't want direct deposit a debit card will be mailed.
- The company names for all your employers from the past 18 months as they appear on your paycheck stubs or W-2 forms
- Complete mailing addresses of employers, including ZIP code and the city in which the business is physically located
- Your start and end dates with each employer, including month, day, and year
- Your reason for leaving each employer (lack of work, voluntary quit, discharge, leave of absence)
- If you are a non-citizen, served in the military or worked for the federal government, you will need additional documentation.

Important!

After you complete your initial application, you will need to continue to check all communications and file weekly claims. You have until Friday to file for the previous week.

There are some changes because of social distancing rules! Even if you have applied before the COVID-19 crisis, try applying again because you might be eligible now. Also, the work search requirement has been waived and benefits have been extended from 26 weeks to 39 weeks.

Need step-by-step help?

[Click here for a step-by-step guide on how to apply.](#)

In addition to state unemployment benefits, you might be eligible for **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**, which was passed under the CARES Act, if you lost your job because of COVID-19. This includes independent contractors, sole practitioners, or those unable to work due to the pandemic. Other good news...this also includes gig work and non-traditional employment like Uber and Lyft drivers and social media influencers!

You must meet one of the following qualifications:

- Been diagnosed, or a member of your household has been diagnosed;
- You are providing care to a household or family member;
- A child or other person for which you have primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility as a result of COVID-19;
- You are unable to reach your place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;
- You are unable to reach the place of employment because you have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine;
- You were scheduled to start work and do not have a job as a result of COVID-19;
- You had to quit your job because of COVID-19;
- Your place of employment is closed because of COVID-19;
- You are self-employed, seeking part-time employment, does not otherwise qualify for benefits, and fits one of the above.

Individuals must apply for unemployment insurance through the Nebraska Department of Labor. Your application will be denied because you are not eligible for regular unemployment benefits, however, you don't need to worry because your application will then automatically be pulled into the PUA system.