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COVID-19 Resources for Immigrants

There are several programs and relief initiatives in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This guide can serve as a starting point to guide you in the right direction.

Stimulus Checks

The CARES Act provides direct payments of \$1,200, or \$2,400 for joint filers, plus \$500 for each child. The amount of the payments will be reduced for those with higher incomes. For individuals filing taxes as singles, the reduced amount begins at an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$75,000 per year and is completely phased out at \$99,000. For joint filers, the reduced amount begins at \$150,000 and payment is eliminated at \$198,000.

What groups are excluded from receiving stimulus checks?

The rebate is not available to (1) “nonresident alien individuals,” which describes immigrants who are not U.S. citizens and cannot establish substantial presence in the U.S., and (2) families that file taxes with ITINs instead of social security numbers, **which will exclude mixed status families that include U.S. citizen children and spouses.**

Will DACA and TPS recipients qualify for the stimulus checks?

Stimulus checks will be available to DACA and TPS recipients (and other similarly situated immigrants) who can establish that they meet certain IRS requirements showing substantial presence in the U.S. for tax purposes.

How will I receive my stimulus check?

If you have already filed a 2019 tax return, the IRS will use the direct deposit information on your 2019 return to send your payment to your bank account. If you don't provide the IRS with your direct deposit details, then the IRS will mail a check to you. Rebates sent through direct deposit will take a few weeks. Rebates sent via checks may take up to a few months.

Unemployment Assistance

The CARES Act both establishes a new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program and expands the existing Unemployment Insurance program to provide further financial support in the form of adding an additional \$600 to every weekly unemployment benefit

through July 31, 2020, and extending unemployment compensation to 39 weeks total (of which only the first four months are at the increased benefit level).

How has Unemployment Assistance changed?

Unemployment assistance is now expanded to include: part-time, self-employed, contractors, and gig workers. Eligibility lasts through December 31, 2020 if unemployment is related to the coronavirus.

Where can I apply?

To check if you are eligible for unemployment insurance and the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program, visit: <http://www.vec.virginia.gov/unemployed>, or contact the Virginia Employment Commission by phone at: 1-866-832-2363.

Do all unemployed workers qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

No. “Non-resident aliens” (noncitizens who do not have green cards and have not been physically present here long enough to establish “substantial presence”) are excluded from unemployment insurance. Noncitizens who are not authorized to work and families with members who use Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) are not eligible. There is a limited exception for military families if at least one spouse has a valid SSN.

Access to Immigration Services

Are USCIS offices open?

On March 18, 2020, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) temporarily suspended in-person services at its field offices, asylum offices, and application support centers (ASCs) to help slow the spread of COVID-19. USCIS will continue to provide limited emergency services. Please call the Contact Center for assistance with emergency services. You may also visit <http://www.uscis.gov/coronavirus> for updates.

What will happen to my scheduled interviews with USCIS?

USCIS asylum offices will send interview cancellation notices and automatically reschedule asylum interviews. When the interview is rescheduled, asylum applicants will receive a new interview notice with the new time, date and location of the interview.

What will happen to InfoPass or other appointments with USCIS?

Individuals who had InfoPass or other appointments must reschedule through the USCIS Contact Center by visiting: <https://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter> once field offices are open to the public again. Please check to see if the office in your jurisdiction has been reopened before reaching out to the USCIS Contact Center.

Additional Assistance

Senator Warner's office stands ready to assist with any coronavirus and non-coronavirus federal issues. **If you or a loved one is currently experiencing an issue with a federal agency**, please contact Senator Warner's office by calling: (202) 224-2023 or visiting: <https://www.warner.senate.gov/>.