

Filing for Unemployment in Georgia (April 2020)

If your employment has been reduced or ended, then you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. The Georgia Department of Labor (GDOL) administers unemployment benefits using an online process. The unemployment program has been recently expanded to additional people, such as independent contractors.

Who is potentially qualified for unemployment benefits in Georgia during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- Full or part-time employees whose hours have been reduced due to COVID-19, or have been temporarily laid off or furloughed.
- Employees who have been completely separated from employment.
- Self-employed individuals, independent contractors, and “gig workers” who are partially employed, unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work for certain COVID-19-related reasons.
- Employees who cannot work now but expect to return to work, and are any of the following:
 - Quarantined or self-quarantined on the advice of a licensed medical professional
 - Over 60 years old
 - Have a recognized medical condition that makes you particularly susceptible to COVID-19
 - A caregiver who resides with someone who is quarantined or self-quarantined on the advice of a licensed medical professional, or is over 60 years old
 - A parent or guardian of a minor whose school is closed due to COVID-19 and is unable to secure childcare

How do I apply for unemployment benefits?

It depends on your situation. If you are furloughed or are working a reduced schedule, your employer should file a “partial claim” on your behalf. If so, you do not have to apply separately. If you are an independent contractor or are a former employee who has been fully separated from employment, you should file your own claim with the GDOL using the regular claim process (a Form 800 from your employer may be required) or using the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance process. The GDOL administers all programs using an online process: <https://dol.georgia.gov/>.

How much are unemployment benefits?

The maximum amount is \$965 per week. You may receive less than this amount or nothing at all.

Is this program available for non-citizens?

Yes, if you are otherwise qualified. However, the GDOL will require additional information from you showing that you are legally present in the US and will verify that information with the Department of Homeland Security.

Do I have to repay the unemployment benefits?

Not usually, unless you provided incorrect information to the GDOL or were overpaid.

For more information, visit the GDOL website: <https://dol.georgia.gov/>.

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