



Pandemic Relief Program:

One-Time \$600 Relief Payment for Mainers Unemployed Due to COVID-19

What is the Pandemic Relief Program?

The Pandemic Relief Program (PRP) is a one-time \$600 payment authorized by Governor Janet Mills, to those who are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19.

This one-time payment is intended for individuals who were likely to exhaust or lose their benefits with the federally established expiration of expanded unemployment programs. Eligibility for this one-time payment was determined using existing, previously filed unemployment claim information and was not a separate application.

To qualify, an individual must have been unemployed due to COVID-19, and had either:

- Exhausted federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) benefits on or after week ending November 14 **or**
- Had an established COVID-19 benefit claim in active pay status, and had filed an eligible weekly claim for the weeks ending December 5, 12, or 19

Individuals who were **newly** unemployed and filed their first benefit claim application or reopened a prior claim on or after December 13, did not qualify.

Even though it is not an unemployment benefit, the one-time payment is being distributed by the Maine Department of Labor.

When was the payment distributed?

The one-time payment was distributed the night of December 21, 2020. All payments under the PRP program had to be completed by the December 30, 2020 deadline as established by the U.S. Treasury for the disbursement of federal CARES Act Funding.

Do I qualify?

Although this is not an unemployment insurance program, in order to qualify, you must be unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19. This one-time payment is intended for individuals who were likely to exhaust or lose their benefits with the federally established expiration of expanded unemployment programs.

The Maine Department of Labor is an equal opportunity provider. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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If I qualified, how would I have received the supplemental payment?

The one-time payment would be made to your account or debit card on file with the unemployment program.

If I am found not to qualify for the payment, can I appeal?

All payments under the PRP program will be completed by the December 30, 2020 deadline as established by the U.S. Treasury for the disbursement of federal CARES Act Funding. Since this is not an unemployment benefit program, eligibility is not appealable.

Is the \$600 payment taxable?

Yes, it is taxable. Taxes will be withheld if that is what is selected in your ReEmployME account for unemployment benefits. There are no other withholdings other than taxes.

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Updated December 22, 2020