



How can youth and young adults (YYA) access unemployment benefits including those who were recently hired or work in the gig economy?

YYA who were recently hired or work in the gig economy can now access unemployment benefits. YYA can also access standard unemployment benefits if they are eligible.

How can YYA access unemployment benefits?

YYA can access unemployment benefits using the Department of Unemployment Assistance's (DUA) website. The DUA has put all of the information related to COVID-19 on a [central webpage](#). This webpage explains how to apply for unemployment benefits and how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting unemployment benefits. Some of this information is available in languages other than English. A [factsheet](#) on unemployment insurance and COVID-19 is also available on the MassLegal Services website. The factsheet explains how to apply, who is eligible, and what benefits are available.

Some useful resources on the webpage include:

- Virtual town halls where DUA staff will explain how to apply for unemployment insurance. There are both recordings of the town halls and a link to register for upcoming town halls.
- A [guide](#) on how to apply for unemployment benefits online. A [guide in Spanish](#) (from an outside organization) is also available along with a [webpage in Spanish](#) from the DUA.
- [Frequently asked questions](#) on the process of applying for unemployment benefits.
- A [list](#) of documents and information needed for the online application.

Can YYA who were recently hired or employed in the gig economy access unemployment benefits?

Yes. The application for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is now available through [the DUA's website](#).

The new stimulus bill gives unemployment benefits to everyone who is self-employed, an independent contractor, or who have made too little money to receive unemployment benefits (including people who were recently hired). Independent contractors include people who work for gig/app-based companies such as Uber. These benefits will be available for 39 weeks. The benefits will also count retroactively. This means that YYA who are eligible will be paid for the entire time they have been unemployed and not just starting at the time of their application.

DUA will pay unemployment benefits to anyone who lost work due to COVID-19 on or after 2/2/20. The benefits will be paid from 2/2/20 or whatever date the person lost their job. For example, if someone lost their job on 3/1/20, they would get benefits from that date, not 2/2/20. This benefit will be available until the week of 12/26/20.

This program has [started](#) in Massachusetts, and the DUA's website has extensive details on how to apply.

For more information on regional providers for YYA experiencing homelessness and housing instability visit the [MA Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Commission website](#).