

GUIDE TO FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL COVID-19 RELATED ASSISTANCE FOR LACEY RESIDENTS

April 2, 2020

FEDERAL

Stimulus Payment

\$1,200 direct payment to each individual with adjusted gross incomes up to \$75,000 (\$2,400 for married couples making under \$150,000 per year). The amount reduces \$5 for every \$100 in income above \$75,000 for individuals (\$150,000 for couples). People who file as a “head of household” (typically single parents with children) are eligible for a \$1,200 payment if they earn up to \$112,500 per year. The payment phases out at \$136,500 for head of household. \$500 additional payment for every child under 17.

Expanded Unemployment Provisions

Increased federal funding for unemployment compensation to workers who are adversely affected by COVID-19. In particular, the workers eligible for benefits are workers who are not otherwise already covered by state unemployment compensation laws or workers who have already exhausted their benefits. This applies even to independent contractors, self-employed people, and workers in the gig economy. Benefits are expanded to provide for up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefit assistance. To obtain unemployment benefits related to COVID-19 under the Act, individuals must self-certify that they are able and available to work within the meaning of applicable state law and are unemployed, partially unemployed or are unable or unavailable to work because of one or more of the following:

- They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis.
- A member of their household has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or they are providing care for a family member or household member who has been diagnosed.
- A child or other member of the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is without care or out of school as a direct result of COVID-19.
- They are unable to reach their place of work due to a quarantine order (by a healthcare provider or otherwise).
- They were scheduled to begin their employment and either cannot reach the job or do not have a job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- They had to quit a job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- They have become the major support for a household because the head of the household died as a direct result of COVID-19.
- Their place of employment is closed as a direct result of COVID-19.

Individuals who receive unemployment compensation under the employment compensation law in the state where the individual was employed will also receive an additional \$600 per week on top of ordinary state-authorized weekly benefits. This enhanced benefit is available only until July 31, 2020.

Expansion of sick leave provisions and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19, including:

- Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at normal rate of pay – when the employee is quarantined and unable to work because of COVID-19.
- Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at 2/3 rate of pay – when the employee is caring for someone else because of COVID-19.
- Up to an additional 10 weeks of paid expanded FMLA at 2/3 rate of pay – when the employee must care for child who is home because of COVID-19.

FEDERAL – Continued

Other

- Most federal student loan borrowers can temporarily pause payments – including principal and interest – on federally held student loans through September 30.
- Federal income tax filing deadline has been extended from April 15 to July 15.
- All testing and potential vaccines for COVID-19 will be covered by medical insurance at no cost to patients.

STATE

Expanded Unemployment Benefits

Expanded unemployment benefits through Employment Security Department including waiving the one-week waiting period for benefits.

Moratorium on Residential Evictions

Moratorium on residential evictions for lack of rent payments until April 17, 2020 under Governor's order. Residential landlords are not allowed to serve a notice of unlawful detainer for default payment of rent and are barred from issuing a 20-day notice of unlawful detainer (unless for the health and safety of the tenant) during this time.

LOCAL

Utility Customer Fee Waivers

During the duration of the emergency, the City of Lacey will not:

- Charge interest
- Assess late penalties
- Disconnect service

for delinquent utility accounts.

Property Tax Payment Extension

The Thurston County Treasurer's office has extended the due date for 2020 first half property tax payments until June 1, 2020. This is an extension of the traditional April 30 due date for first half tax payments.

United Way - Thurston County COVID-19 Community Response Fund

United Way - Thurston County COVID-19 Community Response Fund is now accepting requests from Thurston County residents who are being severely affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 virus. The fund is available to provide assistance with rent, utilities, child care, and other basic needs. Our partner, the Community Action Council (CAC) of Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties, is accepting phone calls and coordinating resources for people who need this emergency assistance. If you are a resident of Thurston County and need help, please call the CAC Monday – Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at (360) 438-1100 or 1-800-878-5235.