

BUSINESS OWNERS CAN QUALIFY FOR PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

This document contains information on how business owners, self-employed, independent contractors, and others not usually eligible for regular state unemployment insurance benefits can receive payments if they are out of business or services are significantly reduced as a direct result of the pandemic. Additional information about reopening and resources for those without right-to-work documents is also included.

Languages available: [English](#), [Español](#), [Tiếng Việt](#), [繁體中文](#), [中文简体](#)

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PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDES BENEFITS TO BUSINESS OWNERS

If you aren't yet among [those able to reopen their businesses](#), don't forget that you may be able to receive unemployment benefits while you prepare to return to work.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

Business owners including independent contractors and those who are self employed may apply for unemployment benefits through [UI Online](#) (fastest), or by [phone, email, or fax](#). In order to apply, you will need the following information:

- Information about your employment history
- Right-to-Work documentation. ([De Anza](#), [Catholic Charities](#), and [Betancourt Foundation](#) have resources for undocumented individuals)

The amount that you will receive through the program varies based on income, but will be at least \$767 during the weeks of 3/29 through 7/25 because of a \$600 temporary increase. Your claim can be backdated to an earlier date based on your last day of work so that you can receive payments from before your submission date.

The [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) webpage and the accompanying [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page provides additional details about the program. Locally, COVID-19 Assistance Navigation offers phone assistance at (408) 809-2124 to supplement EDD call lines.

Timing on Reopening

Governor Newsom has created a [resilience roadmap](#) outlining four stages of reopening of the California economy and the requirements for doing so. Local conditions will dictate the speed at which the opening will take place so the most current information on allowable businesses here is provided by Santa Clara County. Check the [County Variance Information](#) to see what businesses are allowed to open in counties with lower rates of disease transmission to anticipate when businesses in Santa Clara County will be able to open. The roadmap also provides [Industry Guidance to Reduce Risk](#) so that businesses can better understand how they may open safely.

Preparing for Reopening

While you are waiting to reopen under the law, consider:

- Understanding the [Santa Clara County Health Department's May 18 Order](#) and the [Social Distancing Protocol](#) for safe operations.
- Making or revising a [Small Business Survival Plan for COVID-19](#).
- Researching guidance from [trade associations](#) about their recommendations on safely reopening and what you can do to be profitable under the “new normal.” For instance:
 - restaurants could look at the [California Restaurant Association](#)
 - nail salons might see what is offered at the [International SPA Association](#),
 - hair stylists could see what information is available at the [Professional Beauty Association](#).
- Reviewing what your industry’s regulations are during the pandemic. In addition to California [industry guidance](#) and [Cal/OSHA](#), many industries have additional oversight.
- Connecting with the [SBDC](#), [AnewAmerica](#), [MBDA](#), [SCORE](#), [SSTB](#) and other [BusinessOwnerSpace.com](#) partners offering free, local business assistance to get you through the pandemic with topics including pivoting, access to capital, marketing and much more.
- <https://anewamerica.org/en/services/covid-19-coronavirus-updates>

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

Here are other pandemic-related resources:

- [Santa Clara County Public Health](#)
- [SBA COVID-19 Guidance and Loan Resources](#)
- City of San Jose's [COVID-19 Business webpage](#)
- City of San Jose's [emergency notifications webpage](#)

If you would like to receive notices, you can subscribe to one or more of the following distributions:

- [BusinessOwnerSpace.com Notices](#) – Small businesses can keep informed about workshops and other services offered by over 30 small business assistance organization programs through this subscription.
- [SJ Economy Notices](#) – The City of San Jose Office of Economic Development sends out a regular notice about issues of interest to San Jose businesses
- [City of San Jose COVID-19 Flash Reports](#) – Updates and announcements from the City of San Jose about COVID-19 are distributed on weekdays in the morning and late afternoon to subscribers.

Past distributions about COVID-19 can be found here:

- [County Allows Curbside Retail andc Some Other Business Activities to Open Friday – Get ready Now](#)
- [COVID-19 Santa Clara County Order Takes Precedence](#)
- [Getting the Word Out About Your Restaurant](#)
- [CARES Act Tax Credits](#)
- [Apply Soon: SBA Loans Resume Monday](#)
- [Free Legal Help for Low-Income Small Business Owners](#)
- [Avoiding Scams and Fraud Aimed at Small Businesses](#)

- [City of San Jose COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave Ordinance](#)
- [Countywide Small Business Eviction Moratorium](#)
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loan Advance](#)
- [CARES Act Summary](#)
- [Expanded Unemployment Insurance Benefits from CARES Act](#)
- [Money for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19](#)
- [Business Impacts of Changes to Santa Clara County's stay-at-home order](#)
- [Resources for Employers and Employees](#)
- [SBA Loan Relief](#)
- [Links to Informational Resources and Introduction](#)

You can also ask questions of the City of San Jose Office of Economic Development at covid19sjbusiness@sanjoseca.gov.