



FAQ: Employment Issues During COVID-19

Q: Am I eligible for unemployment benefits?

A: Maybe. If you have worked with a valid social security number and a work permit (both belonging to you) for a period of 12 months or longer, you could qualify to receive unemployment benefits.

Unfortunately, if you are undocumented, you are not eligible to receive unemployment benefits.

Q: How can I apply for unemployment benefits?

A: You can apply online or by phone.

Online Application: https://www.edd.ca.gov/Benefit_Programs_Online.htm

Phone Number: 1-800-300-5616 (English)

If you need assistance applying for unemployment benefits, you can contact **Legal Aid at Work** or **Unity Council**.

Visit **Legal Aid at Work** Webpage to obtain the phone number in your area:

<https://legalaidatwork.org/clinics-and-helplines/>

Unity Council: Fill out this [form](#) to request an appointment.

Q: Does applying for unemployment benefits affect my immigration application negatively?

A: No.

Receiving unemployment benefits is NOT considered a receipt of public benefits, therefore it does not affect your current or future immigration application(s) negatively.

Q: If I get sick or my family member gets sick and I cannot work, can I receive financial assistance?

A: Maybe.

You may qualify for disability insurance if you get sick, as long as you have contributed to the State Disability Insurance (SDI). In addition, if your family member gets sick and you need to take care of that person and cannot work, you may qualify for a Paid Family Leave.

See California Employment Development Department webpage for more information:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/disability/About_PFL.htm

