



NEW Pandemic COVID-19 Relief Bill: What's in it?

On December 21, 2020 Congress passed a new \$900 billion pandemic relief package. This bill features many economic relief and annual appropriation opportunities for artists, gig workers, nonprofit, governmental, and commercial arts organizations.

Here are a few highlights of what's included...

Stimulus Checks

\$600 direct payments to individuals making up to \$75,000 per year and couples making up to \$150,000 per year (based on your 2019 tax return) with \$600 additional payments per dependent child.

Unemployment Benefits

- An extension of two programs created by the CARES Act: **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**, which pays benefits to self-employed, gig, freelance and part-time workers generally ineligible for state unemployment insurance; and **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)**, which pays extra weeks of benefits to individuals who exhausted their state benefits.
 - These programs are now **extended by 11 weeks** (till mid-March) allowing individuals to receive a max 50 week of benefits.
 - The benefits will provide **an extra \$300 per week for all workers** receiving unemployment benefits from December 26 to March 14, 2021.
- **Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation:** a federally funded **\$100 per week** additional benefit to those who have at least \$5,000 in annual self-employment income but are disqualified from receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance because they are eligible for regular state unemployment benefits.

For more information, keep an eye on the [Washington's Employment Security Department \(ESD\)'s COVID-19 page](#), which will be updated in the coming weeks. Current claimants should continue to submit weekly claims as usual and look out for more updates ESD.

Small Business Loans

- A reopening of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The program will allow small businesses to reapply for a second PPP loan and will also expand eligibility to businesses (such as certain nonprofits) who previously could not apply for a PPP loan.
- This bill specifically designates \$12 billion for **minority-owned** and very small businesses and \$15 billion for **live venues, independent movie theaters and cultural institutions**.

For more information, keep an eye on the [Small Business Administration's PPP webpage](#).

Rental Assistance

The bill provides money for a first-ever **federal rental assistance program**; funds to be distributed by state and local governments to **help people who have fallen behind on their rent and may be facing eviction**.

The new bill also includes funding for schools and child care providers, nutrition assistance, vaccine funding, food/farm aid, and a five-year extension for Section 181, a tax deduction for film, TV, and live theatrical productions. A deeper breakdown of the COVID-19 economic relief section of the bill can be found [here](#).

Please keep in mind this is a rapidly evolving situation and to keep checking back for updates.