



**Keeping our RASEM Members informed during these changing times is something we take seriously.**

**Dear RASEM Members:**

On December 27, President Donald Trump signed a new COVID relief bill into law. Here are some of the key items for Realtors® ([read more](#)):

- *Direct Stimulus Payments* - \$600 direct stimulus payments to most Americans and dependents.
- *Unemployment Add-On* - An additional \$300 weekly unemployment benefit through March 14, 2021.
- *Unemployment for Independent Contractors* - This program has been extended - from 39 to 50 weeks with a new end date of March 14, 2021. There is also a new provision requiring income verification. Current recipients, keep an eye out for updates from the Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance on how to provide the necessary documentation.
- *Eviction Moratorium Extension* - the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) eviction moratorium that was set to expire on December 31, 2020, has been extended through January 31, 2021. This moratorium prevents evictions for non-payment of rent by qualified tenants who submit a written declaration to their property owners. It is expected that Massachusetts courts will continue to accept filings, process cases, and enter judgments, but will not issue orders of execution until after the CDC order expires, now on January 31, 2021 ([read more](#)).
- *Emergency Rental Assistance* - Massachusetts is expected to receive \$458 million to help cover rent and utility arrearages and limited prospective rent and utilities costs.
- *Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)* - \$284.5 billion in new funding for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to provide loans for first- and second-time applicants.
- *Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)* - \$20 billion in funding and an extension of the application period through December 31, 2021, for EIDL loans. The new law also gives existing EIDL advance grantees who received less than the maximum allowable amount of \$10,000 to reapply for the difference between the amount they received and that cap.

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