

How to get financial help if you are affected by COVID-19

March 27, 2020

If you or your business needs help due to the impacts of COVID-19, the State's coronavirus web site (coronavirus.wa.gov) is a good place to start. You can also use the links below for resources that may help meet your needs.

FOR BUSINESSES

- ✓ Learn if your business is considered [essential](#) and can continue to operate following the Governor's March 23 Stay Home, Stay Healthy order.
- ✓ The Washington Department of Commerce has created a list of [crisis planning tools and resources](#) where you can get information about emergency grants, disaster loans, and other small business support.
- ✓ The [Washington State Department of Revenue](#) has information about tax filing deadlines, extensions, and relief.
- ✓ Greater Seattle Partners, City of Seattle, and the Chamber have launched a [survey](#) for businesses, freelancers, and gig workers to learn about needs and help target future support.

FOR INDIVUALS

- ✓ [Cash assistance](#) from the federal government's stimulus package, of up to \$1,200 per person depending on income, will be sent to households in early April.

- ✓ **Unemployment.** If you have lost your job due to COVID-19, you can file for [unemployment benefits](#).
- ✓ **Childcare.** If you work an essential job (healthcare, first responder, etc.), there are options for free childcare:
 - For Seattle residents, the Mayor has announced a [plan](#) to serve more than 700 children of essential workers
 - For residents outside Seattle, contact your local school district for options on childcare for essential workers
- ✓ **Mortgage & Rent.** If you don't have enough money to pay your rent or mortgage, contact your lender or landlord immediately. Help includes:
 - Washington Homeownership Hotline (877-894-HOME)
 - [Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#) suggestions
 - Rental assistance & counseling (800-569-4287)
 - List of [Housing Counseling Agencies](#)
 - For renters, the Governor issued a statewide moratorium on evictions of residential tenants for non-payment of rent until April 17
- ✓ **Student Loans.** If you need help with your student loans, you may be able to temporarily suspend your payments by applying for a [deferment or forbearance](#) from the US Department of Education.
- ✓ **Utility bills.** If you need help paying your utility bills, contact your service provider immediately.
 - [Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, Puget Sound Energy](#), and most city-run utilities in King County will not shut off service during the emergency. Most utilities also offer assistance programs for people in need.
 - The Utilities and Transportation Commission offers [energy assistance programs](#).

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of state and federal programs, this information may change unexpectedly

- The federal government offers [assistance programs](#) to help with telephone and heating bills.
- [Comcast](#) is offering free WiFi hot spots, unlimited data, and no disconnects or late fees.

✓ **Health Insurance.** The [Washington State Insurance Commissioner](#) has information about health insurance, as well as how to get insurance through the Washington State Exchange if you need it.

✓ **Food assistance.** If you need help with food, every school district in the state is providing to-go lunches for children, and there is additional help at many local [food banks](#).

FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- ✓ **Outreach and engagement.** King County's Office of Equity and Social Justice is providing [grants to organizations](#) that serve communities at the highest risk of immediate and long-term impacts, with an emphasis on communities located near isolation, quarantine, and recovery sites.
- ✓ **Arts and Culture.** 4Culture's [Cultural Relief Fund](#) will help arts and culture organizations with the closures and cancellations caused by the coronavirus emergency.
- ✓ **Direct service.** The Seattle Foundation's [COVID-19 Response Fund](#) provides resources to community-based organizations serving people in need during the emergency.
- ✓ **Seattle's Historic South Downtown.** Historic South Downtown is awarding [grant funds](#) to non-profit organizations that serve the residents and businesses of Pioneer Square and the Chinatown-International District.