

Have you been furloughed or laid off from your job? It's not your fault that these unprecedented times have led to tough circumstances for many people and their families.

JVS Career & Employment can be a resource for help and support, as you navigate your next steps. For some, it may mean a change in jobs, if so, you'll need to evaluate your transferable skills to focus on jobs that will be available. We offer one-on-one assistance and additional resources, tools and support. Start by calling us at 855.275.5237 or visit [JVSChicago.org](http://JVSChicago.org)

### **Job Search Strategy Tips**

If you are at home and thinking "what can I do to get another job when I can't even leave my house?" We have several ways to help you prepare a job search strategy now, whether the right opportunity appears, or you create one.

An important first step is to review how jobs in your field will or won't be affected by the repercussions of the pandemic. When we begin to move back to normal contact will the industry you have worked in change? If so, how? And, what can you do to stay ahead of the curve during this time? Does it mean getting a new certification or additional training and can you get these now, so you are ready to hit the ground running?

Once you are clear about your direction, here are tips and resources to keep you motivated and making progress toward your goals:

- First, create a schedule for yourself...and stick to it! Having a sense of organization and predictability to your job search while working at home will help you stay on track.
- Next up, are your job search tools; your resume, cover letter and LinkedIn profile ready to use? If not, now is the time to work on them.
- When your tools are ready to market and sell yourself, create a list of companies you want to work for, regardless of whether they have jobs posted.
- Networking is always the key to success in your job search! Informational interviewing and networking will help you navigate your way.

### **Unemployment Resource Guide**

- Definition of Unemployment includes a reduction of both work hours and earnings. *Unemployment Insurance (UI) provides temporary income maintenance to individuals who have been separated from employment through no fault of their own and who meet all eligibility requirements, including the requirements that they be able and available for work, register with the state employment service and actively seek work.*
- General information from the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago
  - [COVID-19 and Unemployment Benefits](#)
  - [CARES Act Unemployment Benefits Expansion Package](#)
  - [Employment and Financial Assistance](#)

- All individuals are strongly encouraged to apply online for unemployment

The day or time of day in which a claim is filed will not impact whether you receive benefits or your benefit amount. Additionally, claims will be back-dated to reflect the date in which a claimant was laid-off or let go from their job due to COVID-19.

Individuals receiving unemployment benefits beginning the week of March 29, 2020, will receive an additional \$600 each week above what they would receive in regular unemployment benefits until the week ending on July 25, 2020. Pursuant to the federal legislation, this \$600 will not be retroactively applied to unemployment claims that arose prior to March 29, 2020. In many cases, individuals will also be eligible for more weeks of unemployment above the 26 weeks provided under regular unemployment rules. Both of these benefits will be applied automatically if you qualify.

Here is a summary of the major changes, which have occurred nationally on extended unemployment benefits.