

COVID-19
State of Alabama Programs

updated April 1, 2020



SALES & LODGING TAX PAYMENTS

For small businesses, lodging businesses, restaurants and other food service businesses unable to pay their state sales taxes and/or lodging taxes due to the impact of COVID-19, the Alabama Department of Revenue is waiving late payment penalties. This relief does not waive or extend normal filing requirements. Instead, these taxpayers may file their monthly sales and lodgings tax returns for the February, March, and April 2020 reporting periods without paying the state sales and lodgings tax reported as due. Late payment penalties will be waived for these taxpayers through June 1, 2020. Learn more [here](#).

COVID-19 PARTIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

Summary

This program allows companies avoid the negative effects of partial unemployment claims and enables employees to gain access to unemployment insurance (UI) benefits. Companies can streamline the process for employees to receive these benefits by filing on behalf of the employees who have been temporarily furloughed due to the COVID-19 emergency.

Eligibility Requirements

- Full or part-time employees who are temporarily laid off or whose hours have been temporarily reduced because of a lack of work due to COVID-19. Employees must be expected to return to work when the COVID-19 emergency ends.

How to access the program

- Go to <https://labor.alabama.gov/>

What benefits can a company and/or its employees expect to receive?

- Charges for unemployment benefits resulting from shutdowns will be waived for employers who file partial claims on their employees' behalf
 - Employers' experience ratings will not be affected by coronavirus-related claims
 - Employees will gain access to unemployment benefits which are paid weekly and do not have to justify any claims of unemployment (i.e. that they were terminated for no fault of their own).
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LOCAL PROGRAM EXAMPLES

Many cities, towns, and counties - [large and small](#) - are marshalling resources for businesses impacted by COVID-19. Local economic development organizations (EDOs) and Chambers of Commerce are key resources for your business in good times and difficult times. [We encourage you to reach out to these organizations](#) for programs and opportunities they may be administering or facilitating. Often, local resources may have a fast turnaround time when responding to your needs and providing assistance. Your community may be offering special relief programs similar to these:

Example: Atlanta, Georgia

The Invest Atlanta Business Continuity Loan Fund is a program recently established in partnership with the City of Atlanta and opens up to \$1.5 million in funding for zero interest loans to qualifying businesses. Loans are available from \$5,000 to \$30,000, have no application fee, 0% interest rate, and a 6-12 month

deferment on the initial loan payment. Applications are required and certain eligibility criteria must be met before loans are dispersed.

Example: New Castle/Henry County, Indiana

The New Castle Henry County Economic Development Corporation is re-purposing its existing Enterprise Loan Fund in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Companies can receive up to \$7,000 in low interest loans with interest-only payments for the first six months. Application fees and closing costs are waived. Firms with up to 30 employees are encouraged to apply and the funds are intended to offset COVID-19 losses, maintain employees, and provide PTO for employees.

Example: Berrien County, Michigan

The Berrien Community Foundation, Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council, and Cornerstone Alliance have partnered to provide specific, short-term relief for local businesses. The program offers zero-interest loans for Berrien County businesses and nonprofit entities that have a rent or mortgage payment due in April and/or May of 2020. Companies and non-profits can receive zero-interest loans of up to \$2,000 per month and repayment does not begin for six months.