

COVID-19
State of Tennessee Programs

updated April 1, 2020



TENNESSEE TALENT EXCHANGE

Summary

This program helps displaced workers find temporary or new employment in critical industries such as groceries, retail operations (in essential industries) and logistics operations.

Eligibility Requirements

- Employees who are temporarily laid off or whose hours have been temporarily reduced because of a lack of work due to COVID-19 can be matched with jobs in their area that are open and in need of employment assistance.

How to access the program

- Go to <https://www.tn.gov/workforce/covid-19/jobs.html>

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

Companies in need of workers can receive free applicants from the TN Department of Labor and Workforce, who can quickly fill talent shortfalls.

EMPLOYER-FILED MASS UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIM (AKA PARTIAL CLAIMS)

Summary

Companies can streamline the process for employees to receive unemployment benefits by filing on behalf of the employees who have been temporarily furloughed due to the COVID-19 emergency. Partial Claims is the term the agency uses for employer filed mass claims when an employer is experiencing a TEMPORARY LAYOFF ONLY, meaning the employees are expected to return on a future date.

Eligibility Requirements

Employers temporarily reducing hours or closing due to COVID-19

How to access the program

- Call at the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development at 615-551-3501
- Click [here](#) and complete the Excel form
- Email the completed form to Partial.Claims@tn.gov
- Instruct employees not to file an individual claim and that they will need to certify each Sunday to be paid in a timely manner. Encourage your employees to have an active email address to ensure this process works efficiently. Tell your employees to look for an email so they can register at Jobs4TN.gov, where they will complete weekly certifications to notify the state they are still not working.

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

- Employees will gain access to unemployment benefits which are paid weekly and do not have to submit individual claims of unemployment.
 - If you do not submit an employer filed a mass claim, you will be required to respond to each individual employee's claim, delaying the benefit payment process.
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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.