
South Carolina: Unemployment Insurance Benefits, Suspension of Job Search Requirement for Claimants, Waiver of Waiting Week for Claimants, and Extension of Tax Deadline for Employers

Description of Program and Relief

Unemployed workers affected by COVID-19 may be eligible for benefits under already-existing South Carolina Unemployment Insurance Benefits, which provides temporary income for workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own.

South Carolina has also made certain changes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic:

For claimants: South Carolina normally requires recipients of Unemployment Insurance Benefits to conduct two job searches on the SC Works Online Services System each week. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Carolina has temporarily waived this requirement. Additionally, the usual waiting-week period, where individuals who qualify for Unemployment Insurance Benefits must wait a week during which they will not be paid before receiving unemployment benefits, has been waived pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 2020-11. This means South Carolinians can expect to receive their first Unemployment Insurance Benefits payment one week faster than would usually be the case during the applicable period.

For employers: The Department of Workforce and Employment has extended the deadline to pay first quarter contributions from April 30, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Employers, however, will still need to submit their wage reports by the April 30, 2020 deadline. This relief is being applied by the Department of Workforce and Employment automatically; no affirmative steps are necessary and no additional forms are required. Additionally, benefits paid as a result of the COVID-19 state of emergency will not be charged to contributory employers' accounts.

Government or Lead Agency

South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce

Dates Available

Available now.

The job search requirement waiver is effective between March 15, 2020 through April 18, 2020.

Claims for Unemployment Insurance Benefits submitted between March 15, 2020 through April 18, 2020 will have the waiting-week requirement waived.

Eligibility Requirements/Restrictions

In order to receive Unemployment Insurance Benefits, applicant must submit an initial claim to the Department of Employment and Workforce. Basic eligibility requirements include being fully or partially unemployed, through no fault of your own; able and available for work and willing to take any suitable offer; willing to report to your local comprehensive SC Works center as required; and, you must actively search for suitable work each week that you file a weekly certification for Unemployment Insurance Benefits, including by completing at least two work searches a week through the SC Works Online Services portal.

More information on eligibility requirements can be found here:

<https://dew.sc.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits/eligibility-requirements>

Anyone who receives Unemployment Insurance Benefits between March 15, 2020 and April 18, 2020 will have the usual job search requirements waived during that period.

Anyone who is out of work due to a business closing, layoff, or reduction in hours related to the COVID-19 crisis who applies for Unemployment Insurance Benefits between March 15, 2020 and April 18, 2020 is eligible for the waiting-week waiver.

Application Deadlines (If Applicable)

The waiver to seek jobs while receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits is automatic, and does not require any affirmative steps on behalf of those receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits.

In order to benefit from the waiting-week waiver, individuals must submit their claim for Unemployment Insurance Benefits before April 18, 2020.

For employers, first quarter contributions must be paid by June 1, 2020, but wage reports are still due by April 30, 2020.

Contact for More Information

To begin the claims process, visit the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce here: <https://dew.sc.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits>

South Carolina offers assistance for those applying for benefits through TelClaim at 1 (866) 831-1724 from AM to 4 PM on weekdays.

Applicants should review the Applicant Reference Guide, available [here](#).

For employers seeking more information, email suits@dew.sc.gov.

List of Additional Information

Additional information can be found [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and at the following links:

<https://dew.sc.gov/covid-hub>

<https://dew.sc.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits/claims-process>

<https://dew.sc.gov/employers/tax>

https://dew.sc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/covid-19-related-ui-information.pdf?sfvrsn=133a12f0_0

<https://dew.sc.gov/employers/suits/suits-faq>