

Good Evening,

We hope that you, your employees, and your families are staying healthy. Your MNLA Board and Team are working for you on all fronts and bring you today's updates and resources.

1. **Legal Guidance** - The MNLA has secured an attorney to provide guidance for our retail garden center and landscape/lawn care segments on specific activities and the updates to the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) list of critical workers. We've put a rush on our request and will share the guidance as we receive it.
2. **Unemployment Insurance Benefits** have been expanded to include "benefits to workers who do not already qualify for state unemployment benefits. Workers include self-employed, 1099-independent contractors, gig, and low-wage workers who can no longer work because of the pandemic." Please see below for more details.
3. **Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advance - To apply for a COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan, [click here](#).** In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. The SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to \$2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid. Economic Injury Disaster Loans are also available to residents in declared disaster areas. To view the full list of disaster declarations, [click here](#).
4. **Additional Resources** – Attached are fact sheets on the CARES Act from Congressman Fred Upton's office. These were provided to us by one of our members (thank you Linda!). Educational resources from the MNLA team will be coming in a separate email.
5. **Beware of scam emails** – scammers are spending more time and are sending emails that look relatively real. Please note that the MNLA Board and MNLA Team will NOT ask you for financial support nor any personal information. If there are any questions as to the validity of an email please write a separate email directly to amy@mnla.org to confirm.

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#).



ANNOUNCEMENT

Unemployment Benefits Increased and Expanded

[Governor Whitmer today has announced new programs for workers affected by COVID-19](#). The governor, under the federal CARES Act, signed an agreement between Michigan and the U.S. Dept. of Labor to implement Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Compensation programs that grant benefits to workers who do not already qualify for state unemployment benefits. Workers include self-employed, 1099-independent contractors, gig, and low-wage workers who can no longer work because of the pandemic. The agreement also increases weekly benefits for all unemployed workers by \$600 a week and extends benefit payments from 26 to 39 weeks. If someone has already applied for unemployment benefits, you DO NOT need to reapply at this time.

The UIA will provide additional guidance regarding eligibility and application details in the coming days as it implements these new programs.

New Filing Schedule

The new system uses alphabetical order to manage web visits and calls. It is being implemented as UIA has moved nearly all of its staff members to customer service positions in order to faster assist Michiganders in filing for benefits. At the same time, the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget is working to expand capacity and infrastructure of the State's online systems. Potential benefit recipients can help alleviate the system overload by following a few simple steps:

- If you have a computer and the internet, please use the website, not the phone system, to apply for benefits: Michigan.gov/UIA.
- Log onto the website during off-hours for better access – late at night or very early in the morning.
- Please be patient. If the page is loading slowly, DO NOT refresh. Give it a few minutes to load.
- View the [online tool kit](#) and [frequently asked questions](#) before you apply to ensure that you have the appropriate information and documents you will need on hand.
- If you must use the Call Center, please observe the alphabetical system outlined below beginning this Sunday to help ease the burden.

Online Filing Schedule - Michigan.gov/UIA

- Last names beginning with letters A-L are asked to file claims on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Last names beginning with letters M-Z are asked to file claims on Sundays, Tuesdays, or Thursdays.
- Saturdays will be available for anyone who could not file during their allotted window.

Call Center Filing Schedule - 866-500-0017:

- Last names beginning with the letters A-L are asked to call on Mondays and Wednesdays between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Last names beginning with the letters M-Z are asked to call on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Fridays (8 a.m.-5 p.m.) will be available for anyone who could not file during their allotted window.

When you file will NOT affect whether you are approved for benefits or the amount of payment. You will be compensated from the date you were laid-off or released from your employment. You have 28 days from your last day of work to apply for benefits. UIA understands the urgency that benefit recipients are experiencing, but the fastest way to secure benefits is to follow the UIA guidelines.

The current situation is unprecedented, and UIA is doing everything in its power to ensure that those who are eligible for benefits receive them. Our team is working as quickly as possible to process applications and approve benefits. Your assistance is essential to maximizing our efficiency as we work to help all Michiganders get the financial support they have earned.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

File Your Claim By **Last Name**

ONLINE FILING SCHEDULE:



michigan.gov/uia

A-L

FILE CLAIMS

Monday
Wednesday
Friday

M-Z

FILE CLAIMS

Sunday
Tuesday
Thursday

Saturday if you missed your days

WEBSITE IS 24/7

CALL CENTER FILING SCHEDULE:



1-866-500-0017

A-L

CALL ON

Monday
&
Wednesday

M-Z

CALL ON

Tuesday
&
Thursday

Friday if you missed your days

8AM-5PM MON-FRI

The day or time of day in which a claim is filed will not impact whether you receive benefits or your benefit amount. Additionally, your claim can be backdated to reflect the date you were laid off or let go due to COVID-19.

For additional resources visit Michigan.gov/UIA.

Amy

Amy Upton
Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association
2149 Commons Parkway
Okemos, MI 48864
Ph (517) 381-0437
Fax (517) 381-0638
E-mail: amy@mnl.org

"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual." – Vince Lombardi
