

EHHOP Newsletter

East Harlem Health Outreach Partnership

August, 2021

Excluded workers fund

The Excluded Workers Fund is open! This program is an unemployment benefit specifically for people who did not receive any unemployment insurance during COVID (such as undocumented immigrants). If you are someone who has lost work due to COVID and have not received any unemployment insurance, you may be eligible to receive between \$3,200 - \$15,600.

Eligibility: You must meet all four criteria

1. You were living in New York state before March 27, 2020 and you still live in New York state.
2. You lost work after February 2020. If you lost at least half of your income, you may be eligible.
3. You earned less than \$26,208 between April 2020 - April 2021. This amount is the same as making less than \$2,184/month.
4. You have not yet received any unemployment insurance from the government during the pandemic.



How to apply:

The application is open here: <https://dol.ny.gov/EWF>
The application should take 30-40 minutes to complete on your own.

You can call the Department of Labor at this number with questions:

- 800-662-1220 TTY/TTD – English
- 877-662-4886 TTY/TTD – Español



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Documents:

To apply you will need the following documents. Please see the attached flyer ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) for more details.



1. Proof of Identity

a. If you need help getting an IDNYC, you can make an appointment at access.nyc.gov/programs/idnyc or by calling 311.

2. Proof of Residence

3. Proof of Income

a. Your proof of income will determine how much money you receive. To receive the most money, you will need one of the following proofs of income:

i. Your Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) if you have filed taxes in any year since 2018.

ii. A letter from an employer that says the dates you worked and why you lost work. The letter should be from your employer from the beginning of the pandemic.

b. If you have not filed taxes in the past 3 years, it is important to get a letter from your previous employer in order to receive the maximum amount.

i. Please use this guide ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) to ask your employer for a letter. It explains what to ask for in the letter and gives an example that your employer can use.

If you are self employed you should use this guide to write a letter as your own employer!

Your Privacy and Safety:

- Information you provide in the application will only be used to decide whether you are eligible for this program. Your information is protected and cannot be used by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).
- Public charge does not apply - whether or not you receive this money will not affect your immigration status.
- Beware of scammers! You do not have to pay a fee to submit the application. Do not pay anyone who says they will help you apply.



Please reach out to EHHOP at (877) 372-4161 if you have any questions or need assistance with the application.

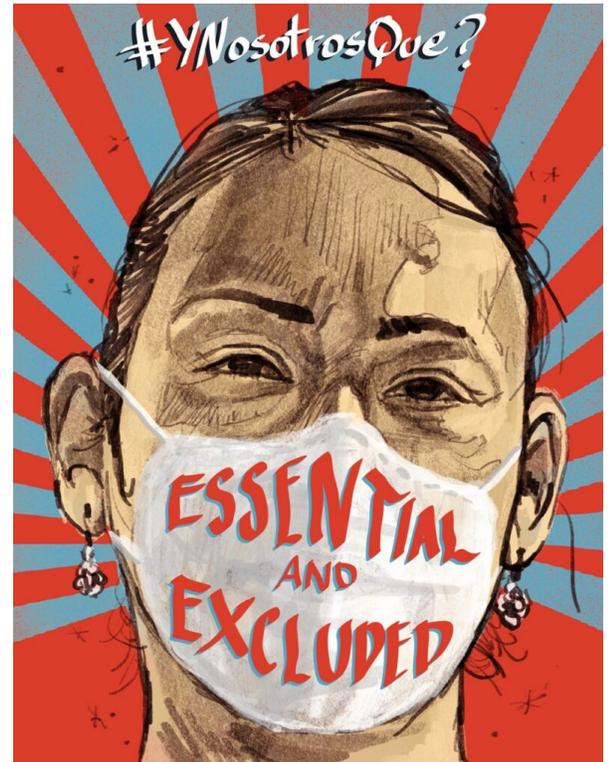
#FUNDEXCLUDEDWORKERS

Total Allocation: \$2.1 Billion

Period of Time Benefit is Designed to Cover: March 27, 2020 - April 1, 2021

Eligibility - In order to apply, applicant must:

- Be a current resident of New York;
- Have resided in New York prior to March 27, 2020;
- Have lost wages or income after February 2020 because of:
 - COVID-related unemployment, partial unemployment, or ability to work;
 - COVID-related death or disability of a breadwinner or major household source of income;
- Not be eligible for Unemployment Insurance or federal COVID-related income relief; and
- Not have earned more than \$26,208 in the 12 months before the law's effective date.



Tier System

Workers will be eligible for one of two tiers of benefits:

Tier One: \$15,600 total benefit

- Have filed a tax return for tax years 2018, 2019, or 2020 using a valid ITIN number; OR
- Provide a letter from an employer showing dates of work and why they're no longer employed; OR
- Provide at least six weeks of pay stubs/wage statements from the six months prior to when the worker became eligible for benefits; OR
- Provide a W-2 or 1099 form for tax years 2019 or 2020 showing wages or income; OR
- Provide a Wage Theft Prevention Act (WTPA) Wage Notice given by employer at time of hiring showing a worker was employed in the six months before becoming eligible for benefits.

Tier Two: \$3,200 total benefit

If applicants are not eligible for Tier One funding, they can qualify for Tier Two

- To be eligible, workers must prove residency, identity, and provide alternative proof of work-related eligibility - the Commissioner of Labor is charged with developing a system and clarifying types of proof to be required.

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Proof of Residence

Applicants can prove residency with the following:

- Non-expired NYS drivers license, non-driver ID or IDNYC, OR
- Any of the following with date limitations to show residency is "ongoing" or "current"
 - Copy of a utility bill
 - Bank or credit card statement
 - A current lease, mortgage payment, or property tax statement
 - Letter addressed to applicant from the New York City Housing Authority
 - Letter to applicant from a homeless shelter indicating applicant currently resides at the shelter
 - Letter to the applicant from a non-profit that provides services to the homeless
- Any other document the NYS Commissioner of Labor deems acceptable

Proof of Identity

Applicants use a point system - to be eligible, you need four points:

- **4 points:**
 - Non-expired New York state driver's license or non-driver identification card
 - A non-expired United States passport
 - An IDNYC identification card
- **3 points:**
 - Non-expired passport issued by a country other than the United States
- **2 points:**
 - NYS office of mental health photo ID card
- **1 point:**
 - Marriage certificate or divorce decree
 - New York state inpatient photo identification card
 - Non-expired parks dept and recreation membership card
 - Foreign birth certificate
 - Consular ID card (or any other photo ID issued by another country to its citizens)
 - Diploma or transcript from a high school, college or university in the US
 - Any other document the DOL decides to accept (must be assigned less than 4 points)

What We Won

Workers successfully beat back the worst of Gov. Cuomo's poison pills

- No limitations barring workers without an ITIN from accessing full Tier One benefits
- The fund permits a variety of documents to prove work history.
- DOL commissioner can adjust what evidence workers can use to prove eligibility - through regulations - as long as AG also approves to protect from fraud

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Comparison to Excluded Worker Funds Available in Other States

This campaign built on and learned from the incredible allies and legislators who launched critically-needed programs much much faster than New York did. The following provides just a few examples of how this new program might compare to other state programs in existence.

State	Support Offered	Retroactive?	Eligibility
New York	\$15,600 / \$3,200 depending on tier	Yes, from March 2020 - April 2021	Continuous residency from before March 27, 2020 to the present. ITINs, pay stubs, wage documents, W-2/1099, letter from the employer, and other alternative forms established by the DOL Commissioner for Tier 1. DOL Commissioner to establish a point system for Tier 2, which is intended to allow less formal documentation showing a pattern of employment.
California	Average of \$500/adult, max \$1000/household that reached 150,000 individuals + EITC-based stimulus benefits of \$600 (including ITIN filers) plus \$600 for ITIN filers earning up to \$75,000	No	Nonprofits collect and review documents showing ID, home or mailing address, and how the applicant was impacted by COVID-19.
Oregon	Up to \$1,720/recipient	No	Proof of identity and residency, such as government-issued IDs; self attestation questionnaire given to all applicants to show hardship caused by COVID-19.
Washington State	\$1,000/recipient, max of \$3,000/household	No	Non-profit reviewed applications; applicants had to be 18+, reside in WA, and have to self-attest to experiencing hardship due to the pandemic and not receiving a federal stimulus check due to immigration status and not eligible for unemployment insurance; For proof of ID & residency: documents that show both ID & residency, such as a WA ID card or Driver's license, utility bill, tax returns, or paystubs OR foreign documents such as passport, or a metro card with photo, plus a letter from landlord or faith-based organization attesting to residency.

Note: This is not a complete survey of all programs nor of non-cash benefits that might be available regardless of immigration status. Illinois, Colorado, New Mexico, Vermont, Washington, DC and other localities have also implemented funds designed to provide some level of financial relief and are not detailed here.

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Total Number of Workers Who Will Benefit and Economic Boost by Region

Region	Tier 1 (\$15,600/worker)	Tier 2 (\$3,200/worker)	Total Workers Who Will Benefit	Economic Boost**
New York City	67,000	146,000	213,000	\$1.5 billion
Long Island	11,000	24,000	35,000	\$251 million
Nassau	6,000	12,000	18,000	\$128 million
Suffolk	5,000	12,000	17,000	\$123 million
Lower Hudson Valley	6,000	14,000	20,000	\$143 million
Mid Hudson Valley	3,000	6,000	9,000	\$65 million
Capital Region	1,000	3,000	4,000	\$29 million
Northern and Western NY	3,000	6,000	9,000	\$60 million
Central NY	400	1,000	1,000	\$10 million
Finger Lakes	1,000	2,000	2,000	\$16 million
Mohawk Valley	200	400	1,000	\$4 million
North Country	200	400	1,000	\$4 million
Southern Tier	400	1,000	1,000	\$9 million
Western NY	1,000	2,000	2,000	\$17 million
New York State	92,000	199,000	290,000	\$2.1 billion

Estimates from Fiscal Policy Institute based on preliminary analysis of budget language

**Calculated as direct spending from excluded worker benefits. Likely economic impact will be larger due to multiplier effects.