

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

# CARES ACT EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT PROVISIONS

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides expanded unemployment assistance for certain individuals effected by COVID-19, including those that are self-employed. The unemployment compensation will be funded by the federal government but administered by each state's unemployment office. This expanded pandemic unemployment assistance is available to be claimed beginning with the effective date of the CARES Act through December 31, 2020. In some instances, individuals may also qualify for additional unemployment assistance dating back to January 27, 2020. Assistance cannot be claimed for more than 39 weeks within the period January 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020. This includes weeks that an individual already received payments for regular compensation or extended benefits under other Federal or State legislative relief.

The Act also provides for an increase in weekly benefits of \$600, referred to as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, through July 31, 2020 in addition to what is paid under the applicable state's unemployment insurance benefits.

Availability of the expanded unemployment assistance is dependent on each state entering into an independent funding agreement with the federal government. The federal government is also requiring that each state waive the traditional one week waiting period for claiming unemployment assistance as part of an agreement.

*March 28, 2020*