

MS - Among the 1st in the Nation to pay claimants Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

Press Release

For many claimants in Mississippi and the administering agency, Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES): it is a day of celebration! Today Mississippians eligible under the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program will begin seeing the \$600 stimulus funding deposited on either their debit cards or into their bank accounts, announced today by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, April 10, 2020.

This additional \$600 per week stimulus is one of three expanded funding programs from the U.S. Department of Labor (US-DOL) that will distribute federal unemployment aid to Mississippians under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act intended

to boost jobless benefits for residents in the state and around the country. All fifty state governments are working diligently to put these programs in place. Congress and President Trump enacted these emergency programs to assist those left unemployed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To ensure Mississippi was eligible to receive the CARES Act funds, Governor Tate Reeves signed an agreement with the US-DOL on March 28, 2020. Signing this agreement, paved the way for Mississippi to accept this federal funding for unemployed workers as soon as these programs are implemented.

April 9, 2020, the Governor of Mississippi, Tate Reeves, held a press conference announcing the release of this funding. MDES Executive

Director, Jackie Turner and Reemployment Assistance director, Timothy Rush were the sole featured guests of Governor Reeves' hour-long press conference. This presented a platform allowing MDES to explain the upcoming programs in the CARES Act, answer media questions, and voice claimant concerns from contact center wait times to CARES Act questions. This interview is available on the MDES website.

Having guidelines for these programs, MDES continues to actively work on various processes in preparation to effectively distribute unemployment funds through the Unemployment Insurance (UI) system. An additional call center is being generated to increase capacity and meet the demand of claims that continue to increase as more businesses close or layoff employees.

Timothy Rush, Director of Reemployment Assistance for the agency stated, "Below

The deadline for applying for assistance with the EQIP Emergency Sign-up is May 8, 2020. USDA Service Centers are open for business by phone appointment only and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While the program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with produc-

ers by phone, and using online tools whenever possible. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with NRCS, Farm Service Agency, or any other Service Center agency are required to call their local NRCS office to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

is a short summary of each new federal benefit payment program MDES is responsible for administering within the CARES Act". These programs are as follows:
The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program, or FPUC, provides \$600 per week to any individual eligible for any of the Unemployment Compensation programs. This benefit began March 29, 2020.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance or PUA, is the program that will provide unemployment benefits to those not ordinarily eligible for them. This includes individuals who are self-employed or contract employees.

The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, or PEUC, allows for a potential additional 13 weeks of benefits added to the end of regular unemployment benefits. This means claimants may collect unemployment benefits for a longer period of time than under normal circumstances.

Rush further stated, "it is important to note that all of these programs are retroactive. Even if it takes numerous weeks to put them in place; the benefits will cover

those who were unemployed at least back to March 29th, and one program reaches back to late January," said Rush.

Jackie Turner, Executive Director for MDES said, "These programs are on their way, and we're working as fast as we can to get them to the people of Mississippi. They aim to provide temporary relief to workers affected by the Coronavirus by paying more benefits for longer periods of time than provided under regular unemployment compensation law," said Turner. She further stated, "We are working quickly to make this aid accessible to

the people of Mississippi. MDES is currently anticipating further instruction from the US-DOL. There is a lot of work to be done to ensure these funds are administered correctly and we hope to provide these benefits as soon as possible," said Turner.

A list of this information and COVID-19 updates mentioned in this release can be found on the MDES website. To file a claim; online filing is advised, if you must call the number is 1-888-844-3577 or contact your local WIN Job Center by phone or email only. All information can be found at www.mdes.ms.gov

NRCS Announces Emergency EQIP Sign-UP

Press Release

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funds available for landowners in flooded and disaster impacted areas in Mississippi. This funding is provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a financial assistance program included in the Farm Bill. EQIP allows NRCS to work with landowners to implement conservation practices and to provide an incentive payment to landowners. The deadline for applying for assistance with the EQIP Emergency Sign-up is May 8, 2020.

The key eligible conservation practices addressed in the EQIP Emergency Sign-Up are as follows:

- Practice Code - 342
- Practice Name - Critical Area Planting
- Practice Code - 356
- Practice Name - Dike
- Practice Code - 362
- Practice Name - Diversion
- Practice Code - 382
- Practice Name - Fence
- Practice Code - 410
- Practice Name - Grade Stabilization Structure
- Practice Code - 484
- Practice Name - Mulching
- Practice Code - 587
- Practice Name - Structure for Water Control
- Practice Code - 666
- Practice Name - Forest Stand Improvement
- Practice Code - 612
- Practice Name - Tree and Shrub Establishment

All counties in Mississippi will be eligible to participate in this program. However, priority counties are listed below.

Priority will first be given to the presidential declared

counties as outlined on the FEMA disaster report. These counties are: Bolivar, DeSoto, Choctaw, Clay, Oktibbeha, Panola, Prentiss, Sunflower, Tishomingo, and Washington.

Second priority will be given to those counties identified by MEMA as counties adversely affected by the disaster. MEMA has identified the following: Alcorn, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Covington, Itawamba, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Leake, Lee, Marion, Neshoba, Newton, Oktibbeha, Pontotoc, Prentiss, Scott, Simpson, Smith, and Tippah Counties.

Our third priority will be counties identified by the Farm Services Agency (FSA) as qualifying for disaster assistance. These counties are as follows: Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Choctaw, Clarke, Coahoma, DeSoto, Holmes, Jasper, Lauderdale, Leake, Madison, Montgomery, Neshoba, Panola, Simpson, Tallahatchie, Tate, Winston, and Yazoo.

All applicants will need to meet all EQIP eligibility requirements.

With this emergency assistance, NRCS will target early fall practice implementation. Landowners must implement all scheduled practices according to NRCS standards and specifications in a timely manner due to the emergency circumstances.

"NRCS is dedicated to assisting landowners during hardship. This funding will help Mississippians in the wettest areas of the state alleviate the impacts of flooding on cropland, pastureland and forestland," said Kurt Readus, state conservationist.

DPS driver bureau extend dates for firearms, security guard permits

Press Release

The Mississippi Department of Public Safety announces expiration date extensions to firearm and security guard permits.

All firearm permits and security guard permits with an expiration date beginning on March 14, 2020 and thereafter, will be extended until the State of Emergency Declaration has been canceled. Online services are not available for renewal of these credentials.

Driver license stations remain closed to the public except for the 9 MHP District Troop Stations across the state until further notice.

The 9 MHP District Troop Stations will only provide the following services:

- Sex offender registry transactions
- ALL Commercial Driver License (CDL) transactions – this includes testing

The Driver Service Bureau will adhere to social distancing with the 10-person maximum recommendation at any location which will include staff members.

MHP District Troop Stations

Northern Region
-Troop D
1301 Cypress Avenue
Greenwood, MS 38930
-Troop E
22000-A Highway 35 North
Batesville, MS 38606
-Troop F
1103 Bratton Road
New Albany, MS 38652

Central Region
-Troop C
3851 Highway 468 West
Pearl, MS 39208
-Troop G
1280 East Lee Blvd.
Starkville, MS 39759
-Troop H
910 Highway 11 and 80 East
Meridian, MS 39301

Southern Region
-Troop J
#35 J.M. Tatum Drive
Hattiesburg, MS 39401
-Troop K
16741 Highway 67
Biloxi, MS 39532
-Troop M
160 Highway 84 East
Brookhaven, MS 39601

**Harland Creek
Community Water Association**
the annual meeting scheduled for
Monday, April 20, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
has been postponed.
**NOTICE WILL BE GIVEN ONCE IT IS
RESCHEDULED!!!**

**HOLMES COUNTY
MINI STORAGE AUCTION**
Next to Lexington Farm Supply
22476 Depot St., Lexington, MS 39095
**AUCTION SALE DAY:
Saturday, April 25, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

**#10 Michelle Burks
#24 Patricia Thurmond
#26 Lori Lloyd
#45 Steven Burns
#63 Sedric Garnett**

Mallory Community Health Center would like to announce that we are now offering Telehealth Services for all sites. Since the heightened spread of the Coronavirus, this service is set in place to ensure all patients have the opportunity to continue their visits from the comfort of their home using their cell phone, laptop, or desktop computer. Please give us a call at 662-834-1857 for more information. We are here to assist and serve you.

Remember at
Mallory Community Health Center,
You Enter a Patient and Leave A Friend.

READY, SET, GROW
For all your gardening needs:

- *Miracle Gro & Cow Manure*
- *Loose Garden Seed*
- *13-13-13*
- *Vegetable & Herb Plants*
- *Baccto, Miracle Gro & Black Cow Potting Soils*
- *Fertilizers*
- *Fruit Tree Spray*

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**LEXINGTON
FARM SUPPLY**
Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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