



How The CARES Act Supports All Workers

Congress passed the CARES Act in April 2020 in response to the unprecedented public health and economic crisis posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act provides significant economic relief for America’s families and businesses, including sole proprietors, independent contractors, and other micro-business owners in the form of the pandemic unemployment assistance (PUA).

The CARES Act Recognizes That All Workers Are Impacted By Covid-19

Americans earn money in many unique ways – *beyond a traditional paycheck from an employer* – and Congress recognized that relief should benefit all Americans who are losing out on work during this economic crisis.



Today, there are approximately 24 million online income positions – including contractors, cleaning services, handypersons, small business owners, and freelancers – in the United States. These online income positions serve as important lifelines to people across the country who need flexible opportunities to earn supplemental income.

As a result of the stay-at-home orders and other safety measures implemented across the states and federally, all workers, including those making money through the internet, may face a sudden lack of demand for their services.



Whether someone is a traditional employee or an independent worker, the financial hardships they face in the wake of this pandemic are similar – and the CARES Act recognizes that all workers need financial and economic relief.

The CARES Act Covers A Broad Range Of Workers

- **The CARES Act PUA provides temporary relief to everyone, including those earning income online**, through federal funding that has been specifically appropriated for this purpose.
- **These federal funds are separate and distinct from existing state unemployment insurance funds** – which are funded through taxes paid by employers on behalf of their employees.
- **Congress specifically appropriated funds in order to give self-employed individuals, independent contractors, sole proprietors, and other microbusiness owners relief that would otherwise not be available to them through state unemployment.**

Congress intended for the PUA fund to reach as many Americans as possible¹, and it’s critical to ensure that all eligible workers impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic have easy and flexible access to the benefits they deserve.

¹ U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Labor Department Makes Clear Workers Congress Intended To Cover Will Receive Unemployment Benefits, April 20, 2020

About Internet Association

Internet Association represents over 40 of the world’s leading internet companies. IA’s mission is to foster innovation, promote economic growth, and empower people through the free and open internet. For more information, visit www.internetassociation.org