

April 16, 2020 UPDATE

Thank you again to Midwest Strategy Group, our lobbying firm, and specifically to our lobbyist, Mike Krombeen, for keeping us updated on all relevant information. Much of the following is from their most recent release dated April 16, 2020.

Press Release: Midwest Governors Announce Partnership to Reopen Regional Economy
[Midwest Governors Announce Partnership to Reopen Regional Economy](#)

PLEASE provide your input to a bipartisan task force who will make recommendations to the Governor by completing the following survey:

[MI Safe Workplaces](#)

The Stay Home, Stay Safe is extended to April 30, 2020. In addition, the State of Emergency has also been extended to April 30th, which coincides with the federal government's recommendation for social distancing.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics released unemployment data this morning, bringing the Michigan jobless total since the stay-at-home order to 1,030,320. Last week, the UIA extended their hours and increased their staff to handle the increase in claims. Over 1 million have applied for jobless help since mid-March. Michigan's cap on weekly benefits is \$362. Federal stimulus funding adds \$600 per week to unemployment payments for up to four months. State benefits can be paid for up to 26 weeks with a federal 13-week extension possibly under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

As a result of the CARES Act, \$150 billion was allocated to state and local government relief. Of this, \$3.87 billion was allocated to Michigan.

Twelve small businesses and nonprofits around Michigan have been awarded a total of \$1 million through the Pure Michigan Business Connect COVID-19 Emergency Access and Retooling Grants program. The program is providing the funds to small manufacturers looking to retool and produce critical health and human service supplies in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

As of April 16, the following statement was released on sba.gov: "SBA is unable to accept new applications at this time for the Paycheck Protection Program or the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program based on available appropriations funding. Those who have already submitted their applications will continue to be processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Thousands of small business owners whose loans have not been processed must now wait for Congress to approve a Trump administration request for another \$250 billion for the program.

Late on April 13, Governor Whitmer signed five new Executive Orders. One temporarily extends driver's licenses, learner's permits and commercial driver's licenses set to expire on or after March 1 until June 30.

Michigan is the first state to be approved for a new federal food assistance program aimed for school-aged children. Those aged 5-18 who are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals will see \$193 for food assistance in April and an additional \$182 per student for May and June combined. The program will operate using EBT Bridge Cards under the name of the oldest student in the household.