



Rhode Island  
**LEGAL SERVICES**  
50 CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS  
Since 1969

## Guide to Unemployment Benefits and Sick Time

*Monday, April 20th, 2020*

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) has made changes to Unemployment Benefits and "Paid Sick Time."

Rhode Island Legal Services is available to help you understand which benefits are available for you when you cannot work. Call 274-2652 extension 164.

1 Readers are encouraged to review the underlying information here and reminded that this bulletin is for informational purposes only. It does not create an attorney-client relationship.

### **Making Sense of Unemployment Insurance:**

There are now several ways you can qualify for unemployment benefits:

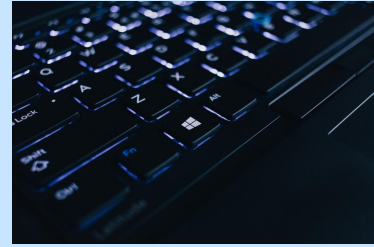
1. You were laid off because your place of employment closed or had to reduce its work force. When you apply, if your layoff was due to COVID-19, be sure to check that box to waive the usual seven day waiting period.
2. You do not qualify for the usual unemployment benefits because you are a gig worker, independent contractor, run your own business or do not have enough work quarters in your recent work history, but you are now out of work due to COVID-19.
3. Your workplace remains open but you had to stop working for "good cause." "Good cause" reasons related to COVID-19 include: you have tested positive for COVID-19; your doctor recommends you stay home because you are in a high-risk category; you are the sole caregiver for someone who needs care and cannot stay home alone (a very ill relative, a child home from school). ***You should not quit your job unless you are sure your reason for leaving would be "good"***

*cause” to qualify.*

---

The RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) has three separate applications on its website.

[Go to DLT](#)



If you receive unemployment benefits you should also receive an additional \$600 per week for up to four months to supplement the usual benefits amount.

---

### **Making Sense of Paid "Sick Time":**

If you are sick, quarantined, or taking care of a sick family member you may also qualify for up to **40 hours of paid RI "Sick Time"** at full wage paid by your employer or up to 80 hours of **emergency paid sick leave under federal law.**



In addition, especially if your doctor takes you out of work for longer due to your own illness, you may qualify for RI Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI).

[Click Her for TDI Application](#)

Individuals taking time off from work to care for an ill family member or to bond with a newborn or adopted child may qualify for Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI).

[Click Here for TCI Application](#)

**RESOURCES TO HELP YOU**



We all know someone who has been impacted by this crisis. If you need help, our Providence office can be reached at 401-274-2652 and our Newport office can be reached at 401-846-2264. If you'd like to help, [donate here](#). Other helpful resources are available too. You are not alone.



**Click the buttons below for more other useful information:**

**Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)**

**RI Office of the Governor,  
Gina Raimondo**

**US Department of Veteran Affairs**

**Medicare & Medicaid Resources**

**Social Security Resource**

**United Way Rhode Island**

**RI Coalition for the Homeless**

**RI Department of Labor and Training**

***Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter!***



**Our Website**

**Donate**

Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. is funded in part by the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC"). As a condition of the funding received from LSC, Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. is restricted in certain activities in all its legal work, including work supported by other funding sources. Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc. may not expend any funds for any activity prohibited by the Legal Services Corporation Act, 42 U.S.C §2996 et. seq. or by Public Law 104-134. Public Law 104—234 §504(d) required that notice of these restrictions be given to all funders or programs funded by the Legal Services Corporation. For a copy of these laws or any further information, please contact: Robert M. Barge, Executive Director, Rhode Island Legal Services, Inc., 56 Pine Street, Suite 400, Providence, Rhode Island 02903; Tel. 401.274.2652.