COVID-19 and Unemployment Benefits in Washington
Disclaimer:

The following slides contain general information about current law at the time of the presentation. It does not apply legal principles to anyone's specific circumstances, and is not intended as a substitute for specific legal advice.
Opening Blessing

Natosha Gobin (Tulalip Tribes)
Lushootseed Language Teacher
• Introductions

• Overview of unemployment insurance: eligibility and how to apply

• Current law changes to unemployment

• Common unemployment issues

• Questions and Answers
Today’s panelists

• Juliana C Repp (Nez Perce), Managing Attorney, Spokane Unemployment Law Project
• John Tirpak, Executive Director/Attorney, Unemployment Law Project
• Therese Norton, Staff Attorney, Bellingham Northwest Justice Project
• Desiree Day (Tlingit and Haida of Alaska), Human Resources Director, Tulalip Tribes
• The Unemployment Law Project (ULP) provides low-cost representation and free advice and counsel to people in Washington State who have been denied unemployment benefits or whose award of benefits is being challenged.
• ULP has offices in Seattle and Spokane.
• In 2019, ULP represented claimants in more than 750 hearings.
UI: Overview of eligibility and how to apply

Eligibility: Minimum 680 hours of covered employment in the base year

Benefits paid: Maximum 26 weeks of benefits per benefit year

Apply online at esd.wa.gov or by phone at 360-902-9500

When approved, file claims weekly. For questions call 833-572-8400
Unemployment

Three Basic Scenarios

- Layoff
- Voluntary Quit
- Termination
Impact of COVID-19: Federal changes in UI policy

- **PUA**: Added eligibility for gig workers, indep. Contractors, part-time, < 680 hours,
- **PEUC**: Extended 13 weeks of benefits
- **UI Benefit floor of $235 per week**
- **PUC**: Extra $600/week March 29-July 31

Unemployment Law Project
Impact of COVID-19: Washington state changes in UI policy

- Job search requirements suspended
- Waiting week suspended
- Standby and shared work programs expanded to part-time workers

Unemployment Law Project
## ELIGIBILITY CHECKER

### Do I qualify for regular unemployment benefits? [YES] [NO]

1. Did you work at least 680 hours in your “base year”?  
   Your base year is the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters before the week you apply for benefits.

2. Did you work in Washington state sometime in the last 18 months?

3. Are you able to work?  
   Able to work means you are mentally and physically able to work.

4. Are you available for work?  
   Available to work means you are able to work without restrictions that would prevent you from accepting work (for example: transportation issues, illness, vacations, or lack of family/childcare).

5. Were you laid off?  
   Find out more about being laid off.

6. Did you quit your job?  
   Find out more about quitting.

7. Were you discharged from the military in the last 18 months?  
   Find out more.

8. None of these statements apply to me. If none apply, select Yes.  
   - I was fired and it was my fault.  
     Find out more about being at fault.
   - I am on strike from my employer.
   - I am on a leave of absence from my job.
   - I am still working.

If you answered **YES** to MOST of these questions: You will likely qualify for regular unemployment benefits. Apply for benefits as soon as possible and we will review your application and decide if you qualify. **To avoid mistakes and get paid faster,** please be sure to download the application checklist and read the information at [esd.wa.gov/unemployment](http://esd.wa.gov/unemployment) before applying.

If you answered **NO** to MOST of these questions: You might not qualify for regular benefits but could qualify for expanded benefits under the federal CARES Act during the COVID-19 pandemic. Complete the checklist on the next page to see if you could be eligible.

### ELIGIBILITY CHECKER

### Do I qualify for expanded unemployment benefits related to the COVID-19 pandemic? [YES] [NO]

1. Are you out of work or working less than normal because of COVID-19?

2. Were you recently denied for unemployment because you hadn’t worked 680 hours?

3. Did you work, but worked fewer than 680 hours in Washington in the past 18 months?

4. Were you diagnosed with COVID-19, severely ill and unable to work?

5. Are you showing symptoms of COVID-19 and are either waiting for results of a test or seeking medical attention?

6. Are you at high risk AND a medical provider has told you to stay home?

7. Are you caring for a family member or dependent who has COVID-19?

8. Do you have a family member or dependent who is showing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking medical attention?

9. Do you have a family member or dependent who is high risk, lives with you and is staying home for their protection?

10. Are you caring for a high-risk person who has been advised to stay home for their protection?

11. Has your child’s school been closed and you are unable to find child care?

12. Is your workplace closed because of an official order or a case of COVID-19, and you are unable to work from home?

13. Are you self-employed?

14. None of these statements apply to me. If none apply, select Yes.  
   - I quit my job for reasons unrelated to COVID-19.
   - I quit my job just to collect unemployment benefits.
   - I am currently receiving vacation leave, sick leave or paid time off.
   - I can work from home but am choosing not to.

If you answered **YES** to ANY questions 1-13, and **YES** to question 14, you are likely eligible for unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you answered **NO** to ALL of these questions, you might not be eligible. If you think you are eligible under the expanded benefits, please wait to apply and sign up for action alerts on our [COVID-19 page](http://esd.wa.gov/COVID-19). We will notify you with details about expanded benefits, how to get ready to apply and when to apply.
Our Vision: Justice for all low-income people in Washington

Our Mission: Combatting Injustice ● Strengthening Communities ● Protecting Human Dignity
Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Know Your Rights Topics

- Eviction
- Coronavirus Scams
- Employment
- Family Law
- Health Care and Health Insurance
- Immigrants
- Money and Debts
- Native American Issues
- Public Benefits
- Protection Orders
- Schools

https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/
Common Issues

Native Americans On Tribal Land Are 'The Least Connected' To High-Speed Internet

Coronavirus Tax Relief

DENIED

Northwest Justice Project
Tulalip Tribes of Washington

• The Tulalip Tribes is a federally recognized Indian tribe located on the Tulalip Reservation in the mid-Puget Sound area boarded in the east by Interstate 5 and the city of Marysville, Washington; on the south by the Snohomish River; on the north by the Fire Trail Road (140th street); and on the west by the waters of Puget Sound.
• The Tulalip Reservation exterior boundaries enclose a land-base of 22,000 acres, more than 50% of which is in federal trust status.
• The Reservation is rich with natural resources: marine waters, tidelands, fresh water creeks and lakes, wetlands, forests and developable land.
• The Tulalip Reservation was reserved for the use and benefit of the Indian tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliot of January 22, 1855.
• It was created to provide a permanent home for the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skagit, Suiattle, Samish and Stillaguamish Tribes and allied bands living in the region.
• We have over 4900 enrolled Tulalip Tribal Members
• https://www.tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/
Tribes Mission, Vision, & Values

• Mission
  – Together we create a healthy and culturally vibrant community

• Vision
  – We gathered at Tulalip are one people. We govern ourselves. We will arrive at a time when each and every person has become most capable.
Tulalip Tribes MAP
Reporting Unemployment Benefits Fraud

- If you feel you have been a victim of fraud please report it immediately
  - Toll-Free Phone 1-800-246-9763
  - Fax 1-833-572-8423
  - Email: ESDGPFraud@ESD.WA.GOV

- Information to include in your email:
  - Your full name
  - Last 4 numbers of your Social Security number (never put your full SSN in an email)
  - Your address
  - Your date of birth
  - Brief description of how you found out an imposter-fraud claim was filed using your information
  - Please let us know: If an imposter-fraud claim was filed using your information, do you give us permission to deny and cancel it?

- Steps you can take if you believe you are a victim of fraud:
  - Go to the FTC identity theft website: www.identitytheft.gov for great resources on reporting
  - Request your free credit reports via www.annualcreditreport.com and review them for other fraudulent activities
  - Go to atg.wa.gov/recovering-identity-theft-or-fraud for additional tips from the Washington State Attorney General
ESD Resources

• www.esd.wa.gov

• Unemployment Insurance Questions
  – 1-833-572-8400

• Unemployment Insurance Claims
  – 1-800-318-6022

• eServices Account Support
  - 1-855-682-0785
Questions?
Unemployment Law Project
www.unemploymentlawproject.org
Spokane Office, call (509) 624-9178 or toll free at (800) 940-9178
Seattle Office, call (206) 441-9178 or toll free at 1(888) 441-9178

Northwest Justice Project
www.nwjustice.org
• Outside of King County, call the CLEAR Hotline at 1-888-201-1014 weekdays between 9:15 am and 12:15 pm.
• In King County call 2-1-1 weekdays 8:00am-6:00pm.
• Seniors (age 60 and over) can also call CLEAR*Sr at 1-888-387-7111 (statewide)

Desiree Day, Tulalip Tribes Human Resources Director
• Desk Phone: 360-716-1400
• Email: dday@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
Thank you