

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

What the AEMI unions and their members won in the CARES Act



Union Creative Professionals Spoke Up, and Congress Listened

ACTORS' EQUITY ASSOCIATION 1913

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

AGMA AMERICAN GUILD of MUSICAL ARTISTS

AGVA

DIRECTORS GUILD OF AMERICA DGA

GIAA GUILD OF ITALIAN AMERICAN ACTORS

SUPPORT
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT
PROFESSIONALS
IMPACTED BY CORONAVIRUS CLOSURES

IAA

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS - INTERNATIONAL UNION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTERS

OPEIU

SAG-AFTRA

SDC STAGE DIRECTORS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS SOCIETY

WRITERS GUILD of AMERICA EAST

DPE



SAG-AFTRA @sagaftra · Mar 22

URGENT: CALL YOUR SENATORS TODAY! Tell them not to leave you behind and to provide economic support for creative professionals impacted by the coronavirus #sagaftramembers #COVID19 bit.ly/33CQGIR

FACT Most arts and entertainment professionals are not adequately helped by state unemployment insurance benefits and do not qualify for the newly available COVID-19 related paid leave.

Tell Congress to provide economic support to creative professionals impacted by the coronavirus.



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musicalartistsunion



Liked by mspwasser and others
musicalartistsunion Hundreds of thousands of arts and entertainment professionals are at risk of being unable to pay rent, put food on the table, and care for their families during this public health emergency. Tell Congress that artists need economic support! 202-224-3121 #AGMAendures #WeAreAGMA



You Retweeted IATSE @IATSE · Mar 18

In this time of uncertainty, we need a #COVID19 economic relief package that puts workers first and is fair to those in fast-moving industries like ours.

Join nearly 75,000 in telling your reps: Don't Leave Entertainment Workers Behind.



Tell Congress to include displaced entertainment workers in relief packa...
As social distancing measures are enacted and productions are cancelled across all sectors of the entertainment industry, the COVID-19 situation ...
actionnetwork.org

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Stage Directors and Choreographers Society @SDCweb · Mar 22

When a performance, film, or tv episode is canceled due to the #coronavirus, the arts and entertainment professionals attached to these projects lose much needed income. Tell Congress to provide relief to these workers with economic support! Call 202-224-3121 #1u



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musicians_of_ny With the widespread cancellation of our work, musicians and fellow arts workers are in need of help during the pandemic. Tell Congress to provide economic support to creative professionals! Call 202-224-3121 to be connected to your representative. #1u

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dpeafclio   

opeiu  solidarity with you all. 

March 17

You Retweeted

 **Writers Guild of America, East** @WGAEast · Mar 19

The #FamiliesFirst Act doesn't extend to millions of workers with irregular W-2 employment arrangements—including many WGAE members.

Call the Capitol at 202-224-3121—urge your reps to include arts & entertainment industry workers in the next COVID-19 economic relief bill. #1u



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 **AFM** @The_AFM · Mar 20

The Coronavirus Response Act helps many working people, but it does not help all of us. Many musicians can't qualify for unemployment or other benefits. Tell your legislators to provide relief NOW. #1u #CoronavirusResponse



Protect Entertainment Workers
Tell lawmakers to protect entertainment workers who have had an overnight loss of work—leaving thousands unable to pay for rent or foo...
actionnetwork.org

 1  18  19 

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 **Katie Irish** @knirish · Mar 17

So many of us have no paid holidays or sick pay to cover any portion of this, & rightfully, all shooting has ceased. While some of us qualify for unemployment, not all do. As you social distance by streaming your fav movie or show, don't forget about the people who made them.

 **Department for Professional Employees** @DPEafclio · Mar 17

Many arts and entertainment professionals don't qualify for traditional leave and unemployment benefits due to the unique nature of their work. Tell Congress not to leave these workers behind and provide them with economic support! 202-224-3121 #coronavirus #1u



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 **Guild of Italian American Actors - GIAA**
March 17 at 4:50 PM




Overview of New Economic Support

- 2020 Recovery Rebates
 - \$1,200 per person/\$2,400 per couple (+\$500 per qualifying child)
 - Full amount for people earning \$75,000 (\$150,000 jointly) or less
 - Benefit phases-out for people earning more than \$99,000 (\$198,000 jointly) with no kids
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
 - Additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance for employee-classified workers who have exhausted or will exhaust state UI benefits without finding a new job
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
 - Temporary 39-week program to provide payment to people not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits who are unable to work for reasons related to COVID-19 emergency
- Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
 - Provides an additional \$600 per week for anyone receiving regular state UI, PEUC, or PUA.
 - Lasts through July 31, 2020 and will not be paid retroactively
- Paycheck Protection Program SBA loan eligibility for freelancers and independent contractors

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance eligibility

- A person is eligible for PUA if they are not eligible for or have exhausted UI and the person can ***self-certify*** that they are (1) partially or fully unemployed, OR (2) unable and unavailable to work because of one of the following circumstances:
 - They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have symptoms of it and are seeking diagnosis;
 - A member of their household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - They are providing care for someone diagnosed with COVID-19;
 - They are providing care for a child or other household member who can't attend school or work because it is closed due to COVID-19;
 - They are quarantined or have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine
 - **Was scheduled to start employment and does not have a job or cannot reach their place of employment as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;**
 - They have become the breadwinner for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
 - They had to quit their job as a direct result of COVID-19;
 - **Their place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;** or
 - They meet other criteria established by the Secretary of Labor.
- A person is also eligible for PUA if **self-employed**; seeking part-time employment (if state law allows for benefits for PT workers); or does not have sufficient work history to qualify for UI, or otherwise does not qualify for state UI.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefit calculation

- Modeled after federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance program under the Stafford Act
- Minimum benefit equal to one-half the state's average weekly UI benefit (~\$190 per week) PLUS \$600*

*Pandemic Unemployment Compensation through July 31, 2020

Federal Arts Funding

- NEA/NEH
 - \$150 million to state arts and humanities agencies to provide grants and support arts organizations, museums, libraries, and other organizations during the coronavirus crisis. \$75 million for the National Endowment for the Arts; \$75 million for the National Endowment of the Humanities.
 - 60% of NEA and NEH grants are direct
- CPB
 - \$75 million for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to make fiscal stabilization grants to public television and radio stations facing declines in non-Federal revenues. These funds will help maintain programming and preserve small and rural stations threatened by declines in non-Federal revenues.

Student Loan Support

- **Suspension of Payments Due and Interest Accrual**

- Section 3513 allows federal student loan borrowers to suspend their payments through **September 30** without penalties, interest accumulation, or the loss of eligibility for programs such as Public Service Loan Forgiveness. This expands upon the 60-day suspension on loan payments previously announced by the Department of Education. Borrowers with automatic payment plans will likely need to cancel their automatic payments to take advantage of this suspension.

- **Suspension of involuntary payments and garnishments**

- The legislation suspends involuntary payments (including the garnishments of tax refunds and social security payments) for borrowers in default and the Department of Education announced it would refund approximately \$1.8 billion in recent involuntary payments made by borrowers.

- **Tax-free employer contributions**

- Another provision of the bill allows employers to pay up to \$5250 each year towards employee student loans tax-free.

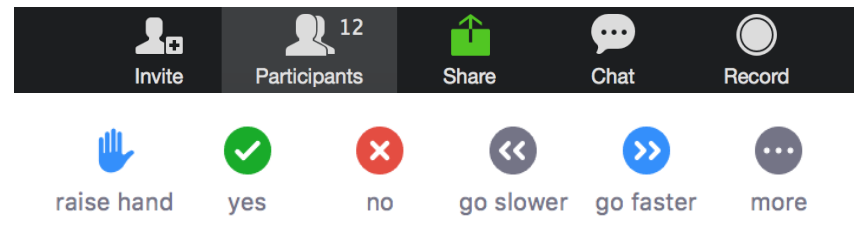
Continued AEMI COVID-19 Coordination

- Joint comments for DOL COVID-19-related UI/PUA regulations
- Special National Employment Law Project (NELP) briefing for AEMI unions
- Shared member assistance materials
- Phase 4 legislative priorities
 - Additional federal arts funding to assist arts nonprofits and other employers in financing projects and performances
 - Pension relief and access to affordable healthcare
 - Economic support for the entertainment industry that puts people back to work

Questions?

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