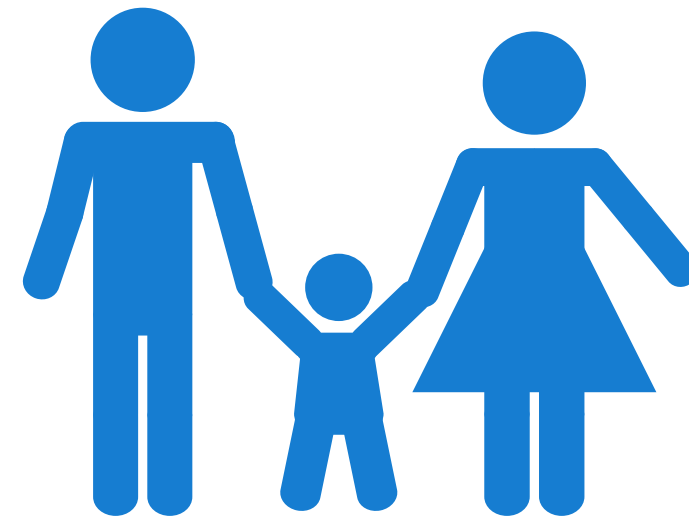


# INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES



## Unemployment Insurance

- Laid-off and furloughed workers (including those new to the job market) will be eligible for Unemployment Insurance and will see an additional \$600 per week to match the average paycheck for up to 4 months of benefits. These benefits will be available immediately.
- The Virgin Islands Department of Labor, which currently operates unemployment compensation (UC) programs, will operate the CARES Act funding in the same way it does in the United States. Please visit <https://www.vidol.gov/unemployment-insurance/> or call 340-776-3700 extension 2099 or 2013 for more info.
- Virgin Islanders are eligible to receive funding from the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program. After underlying VIDOL unemployment benefits, it awards an additional \$600 a week for any worker eligible for local or federal unemployment benefits.
- Self-employed workers and independent contractors are eligible for UC through the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program.

## Direct Payments to Individuals and Their Families/Rebate Checks

- Stimulus checks are calculated in the following manner: The maximum payment possible is \$1,200 for each adult individual (2,400 for joint filers), and \$500 per qualifying child under age 17. The advance payment of rebates is reduced by \$5 for every \$100 of income to the extent a taxpayer's income exceeds \$150,000 for a joint filer, \$112,500 for a head of household filer, and \$75,000 for anyone else (including single filers).
- Congress has made the Rebate checks available to ALL Americans. Because all residents of the territories only pay taxes to the local government, Virgin Islanders will receive their stimulus checks from the Virgin Islands' Internal Revenue Bureau (IRB).
- IRB will determine when and how checks are distributed to those that qualify. The US Department of Treasury will reimburse the Virgin Islands government for all money disbursed. Please contact IRB at 340-715-1040 or 340-773-1040 for more information.
- The Social Security Administration will share information for the Social Security (Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) beneficiaries with IRS to help ensure these beneficiaries receive a payment. IRB and IRS will work with the Social Security Administration.
- The IRS will conduct a public awareness campaign to reach other non-filers and provide them with information on how they can access rebates.
- Stimulus checks DO NOT need to be repaid. The rebate is considered a tax refund and is not counted towards eligibility for federal programs.

## Additional Resource

- Lt. Governor's Office - [ltg.gov.vi](http://ltg.gov.vi)  
(340)-774-2991 or (340)-773-6449



## SMALL BUSINESS

For the CARES Act programs - Small businesses are defined as businesses with 500 or fewer employees including: Independent Contractors, Cooperatives, Private Non-Profits, Sole Proprietorships, Eligible Self-Employed Individuals, Tribal Small Businesses 501(c)(3) and 501 (c)(19) veteran programs are included.

### Loans and Grants

- Congress secured \$350 billion in forgivable loans and \$10 billion in grants to small businesses, tribal business concerns, and certain nonprofits.
- Loans through a new SBA 7(a) **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** can be forgiven when used for payroll costs (including paid leave, health care, and other costs) to retain workers, and other expenses such as rent, mortgage interest, and utilities. Independent contractors, sole-proprietors, and other self-employed persons are eligible for these loans.
- **Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)** are available to pay for expenses that could have been met had the disaster not occurred, including payroll and other operating expenses.
- Small businesses can also apply for up to \$10,000 in **Emergency Economic Injury Grants** to retain workers and pay for debt obligations.
- Small businesses, 501(c)(3) nonprofits, and 501(c)(19) veterans organizations should contact their lender and the Small Business Administration office directly.

### Paid Sick and Family Leave Tax Credit

- Will provide a refundable payroll tax credit for 50% of wages paid by eligible employers during the COVID-19 crisis.
- It is available to employers whose operations have fully or partially been suspended as a result of government order related to COVID-19 available to employers who experienced a greater than 50% reduction in quarterly receipts for wages and compensation including health benefits.
- This credit is provided through December 31, 2020. This tax relief will be provided against quarterly payroll taxes (those paid in connection the Form 941). For more go to: <https://www.irs.gov/>

### Additional Resource

- <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/>
- Virgin Islands SBA -<https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/pr/san-juan>  
(340) 787-523-7120
- Virgin Islands SBDC - <http://www.sbdcvi.org/>  
(340) 6931694

# CONSUMER PROTECTIONS



## Homeowner and Renter Protections

- **Mortgage Forbearance:** Homeowners with FHA, USDA, VA, or Section 184 or 184A mortgages (for members of federally-recognized tribes) and those with mortgages backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac have the right to request forbearance on their payments for up to 6 months, with a possible extension for another 6 months without fees, penalties, or extra interest. Homeowners should contact their mortgage servicing company directly.
- **Eviction Protections:** Renters residing in public or assisted housing, or in a home or apartment whose owner has a federally-backed mortgage, and who are unable to pay their rent, are protected from eviction for 4 months. Property owners are also prohibited from issuing a 30-day notice to a tenant to vacate a property until after the 4-month moratorium ends. This protection covers properties that receive federal subsidies such as public housing, Section 8 assistance, USDA rural housing programs, and federally-issued or guaranteed mortgages. Renters whose landlord is not abiding by the moratorium should contact the relevant federal agency that administers their housing program or their local Legal Aid office.

## Student Loan Relief for Borrowers

If you have student loan debt, Congress secured several options outlined below for borrowers that help provide relief through September 30, 2020. During this period, a borrower will be able to:

- Pause payments for federal student loan borrowers who have Direct Loans and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL), which means these borrowers will not be required to make any payments toward outstanding interest or principal balance.
- Suspend interest accrual for such loans so that these balances don't accrue.
- Avoid forced collections such as garnishment of wages, tax refunds, & Social Security benefits.
- Halt negative credit reporting.
- Ensure a borrower continues to receive credit toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, Income-Driven Repayment forgiveness, and loan rehabilitation.

## Be Cautious

- Please be aware that fraudulent activities are at their peak.
- Beware of scams, including anyone seeking to charge you for accessing the foreclosure relief provided under the bill. You should not be charged for any assistance under this bill.

## Additional Resource

- Virgin Islands Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs - [dlca.vi.gov](http://dlca.vi.gov)  
(340) 713-DLCA (3522) or (340) 714-DLCA (3522)