

4/24/20 Update: In Louisiana, in an effort to give some relief to the online system, they are going to begin **staggering the weekly filing**. Here is the video they made.

[http://www.laworks.net/Videos/COVID-19\\_DaysToFile.mp4](http://www.laworks.net/Videos/COVID-19_DaysToFile.mp4)

**Staggering will be determined by the LAST digit of your Social Security Number**

0-3 Sundays

4-6 Mondays

7-9 Tuesdays

Wednesday to Saturday will be open for anyone who missed their day.

There is a great article that explains this on nola.com

[https://www.nola.com/news/coronavirus/article\\_22615b98-84e0-11ea-969b-dbfd4b96133d.html](https://www.nola.com/news/coronavirus/article_22615b98-84e0-11ea-969b-dbfd4b96133d.html)

**Retro 4/4 \$600** payments. They have been slowly sending these through. I'm not sure what their process is, but they are getting processed. Many of you have reported they came through.

Mississippi – the additional \$600 is not showing up on the website, but it is showing up in the deposits on your debit card or possibly your direct deposit. Also if you are still in the Mississippi Filing Limbo, one of your IA brothers has figured it out and I will happily forward him your contact information to try to help you through it.

**Louisiana Severance Limbo** – EP has sent the payroll reports and they have been forwarded to Unemployment. They should be releasing Severance issues on EP soon. Cast & Crew has NOT sent the payroll reports yet. If you are in severance limbo, or vacation, or work, and were on a **Cast & Crew** show. Please send me your HiRE login, password, and a copy of your paystubs for anything after 3/15. They are getting adjustments done, but they are taking a little more time.

Monetary ineligibility applications are still being processed by LWC. Keep filing the weekly claims. They will catch up.

Log into your HiRE account. If under the claim summary, there is an issue listed, please let me know. The easiest thing is to send me your username and password so if I need to grab information, I can make a little package of information and make it flow quickly through their process. This approach has been quite successful.

If you have not filed for unemployment at all. Please email me and I'll put you on my calendar to call back. I'm going to make people who have not filed a claim at all a priority and will work on correcting issues between helping people get filed. Issues can be corrected and they will retro pay, but first time filing will not retro pay.

Questions on some of the weekly have changed on some weekly. Make sure you are saying YES to both these questions. NO to everything else.

Other than for reasons that were the direct result of the disaster, were you able and available to work each day of the week? YES

Are you still unemployed as the direct result of this disaster? YES

DON'T List as SEVERANCE anymore – there is now this question in your weekly. – Don't list Severance in your application either.

Did you receive a supplemental unemployment benefit pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement? – when you click yes, it will ask for the amount.

*If you have a current unemployment claim and plan to file for weekly benefits, **do NOT report any federal stimulus payments (also known as Economic Impact Payments) or income tax refunds as earnings. These funds do not count as earnings, and reporting them as such will likely result in you not receiving any unemployment benefits for the week.***

*Other important tips:*

*- If you reported vacation pay, severance pay, etc. on your claim application, you do NOT report it again on your weekly certification.*

*- Worker's Compensation is NOT unemployment insurance.*

Louisiana Unemployment is turning around the approvals very quickly now if you have W2 wages in their system. Several problems you might be having are listed below. Trying to call the system will frustrate you. If you manage to get someone on the phone, they will not be able to answer your question. Rather than try to call, please email me and I will route it to someone who can answer your question if I can't.

Login Limbo – quick and easy fix. Just email me you are in login limbo. I have someone who responds with the username and password reset fairly quickly. Then if needed, I can help you through your initial claim filing. I've got it down to a 10 – 15 minute process since I have most of your work information in front of me.

Mississippi and Alabama members filing in Louisiana. If you primarily work in Louisiana, your home state will probably tell you to file in Louisiana (Mississippi sure is). There is a question just above the COVID question that you need to be sure to mark yes for. It asks if you regularly commute to Louisiana for work. Be sure to mark this YES.

Pension Limbo – easily tackled. If it is still in your system, email me what company it is saying you have a Pension claim with (EP, C&C, BTL, Most Excellent). Those we can turn around pretty quickly. It think we got about a dozen of these released today.

SNAP – There have been several questions about this. We are trying to get additional information about how people can apply for SNAP benefits and what the emergency regulations are. If you have been approved in the past month, please let us know, all of the responses we have heard so far is denials and usually because of income.

And anyone who wants to rewrite the words to “Do You Want to Build a Snowman” to “Do You Want to File for Unemployment”, I'm open for suggestions and I think we could have a LOT of laughs.