

## **Unemployment:**

**Each production is treating the COVID-19 layoff differently.** However, if your production is paying an emergency relief payment, you are not qualified for unemployment benefits during that time. If you worked wrapping things out this week, you are not eligible for unemployment this week.

The payroll companies are still working on sending information to LWC so they can help expedite your claim.

**Each Sunday night moving forward, you will need to certify you are not working** so they can process a payment for you the next week. You will be able to check off that you are a part of a union hiring hall so you do not have to say you are looking for work.

**Having problems finding your paystubs to file for unemployment?** The My EP website can help. <https://my.ep.com/> This does not give paystub copies, but will give you a report of all of your work through EP. I wish the other payroll companies had something similar to offer, but they have not responded to my request for information. Greenslate and Media Services function by the production, so check your paystubs for who the employer of record is.

**Search for Union page:** Some people have had issues with this page hitting a snag because of the search window. THIS is the page where you want to say **YES** to **Hiring Hall**. So, the answers on the radio buttons are **No** for sole method to find work, **Yes** for paid up member, and **No** for expected return to work.

Some people have asked about the **NAICS code** needed – the payroll companies should have it in there already, but **it should be 512110 which is Motion Picture and Video Production**. This is also the code you are probably using on your taxes.

Where it says **gross wages**, put your hourly rate and choose hourly in the dropdown box below the rate you put in. This is going to do a calculation to estimate your annual salary.

**If you need to find your user name and password**, go through the steps to have it sent to you. Go to [www.louisianaworks.net](http://www.louisianaworks.net) then click on Forgot Password/Username under the login box, then at the third option, click retrieve both. Choose individual and proceed on from there. When the screen with the security question comes up type anything into the box and hit submit. You probably won't have a security question. Then it will say it did not match and if you scroll down a little bit, there is a place where you can have the access reset and your username and password sent to you, or you can call to get it.

If you start at create an account, it is possible you will get a message that you already have an account because they have information in the system on you from employers reporting work, so don't panic if it says you have an account.

I was helping a member with the enrollment today and I got stuck in a **work history loop**. What I found the system wanted was a period of work that was from 10/1/2018 - 9/30/2019, so keep that in mind when trying to make it work. Once you get one in there **tell it no, you don't want to add anything else**, it should load all your other work history that then you can approve. Have to say it was quite frustrating, but once I read the pop-up errors, it sort of made sense.

**Calling** : some people are getting right through, others are not. Calling the workforce center near you may get you a faster response. One of the members called and someone returned their call within an hour and it took less than 15 minutes to do the process over the phone. The main toll free number is bombarded with calls and hanging up after saying you should call back during usual business hours.

Sometimes exiting out of the program and walking away from it for a few minutes is the easiest way to get the program to do what you need it to do. You might have to reenter some things, but some of it is saving and sometimes it's not.

Per the [ready.nola.gov](https://ready.nola.gov) website <https://ready.nola.gov/incident/coronavirus/resources/> if you look under Unemployment, it is also stating **SNAP benefits may be available as well** as the Unemployment benefit. While this website is specific to the restrictions in New Orleans, there is A LOT of good information here.

Still working on the Mississippi and Alabama parts of this, so anyone with insight there would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your responses on the Louisiana Workforce Commission issues some of you are facing. We've notified LWC and are monitoring the situation closely. Thank you to everyone who has reported issues. I've been passing them on and so have some of you to the website programmers, they are doing updates nightly.

Please be patient with the system, stay tuned for more updates, keep your eyes on your inbox, and don't hesitate to reach out when you need us! Email [sect@iatse478.org](mailto:sect@iatse478.org) or call my extension at the Hall 504-486-2192 Ext. 203.

Dawn Arevalo  
Secretary/Treasurer  
IATSE Local 478