

Immigrant Families Can Get Help During the Coronavirus Crisis!

Many new programs have started since March 2020 to help people pay their bills and find food to eat during the coronavirus crisis. Many of these new programs are available to immigrant families. And immigrants can safely participate in many of these programs because they create no public charge risk.

All of the programs listed on this 2-page flyer are providing new help to people during the coronavirus crisis. None of the programs listed on this flyer are considered under public charge rules. Eligible immigrant families can use any of these programs without any risk to their immigration status.

- ✓ **Emergency Assistance Program.** This is a one-time grant for many Pennsylvania families with children that include adults who were working on or after March 11, and who lost at least half their income from work because of the coronavirus. A family of four could get up to \$994. This program will close either when funds run out or on June 12, 2020, whichever comes first. Apply on COMPASS here: <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/>
- ✓ **Recovery Rebate—also called stimulus payment.** This is available to many people who file a federal income tax return and who have Social Security Numbers. The rebate is up to \$1200 per adult and \$500 per dependent child. If you did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return, and you do not receive Social Security benefits, you will not get the rebate until you file a tax return or a non-filer form (for people who are not required to file a tax return because their income is low).



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- ✓ **Pandemic Unemployment benefits.** These are available to many people with work authorization who lost some or all of their income from work because of the coronavirus. This includes people who were working very few hours, were self-employed or were doing “gig” work like driving for Uber. This comes with a “regular” benefit amount (about half of what you were making at work) that is available for up to 39 weeks and an extra \$600/week that is available through July 2020.
- ✓ **Pandemic EBT.** This goes to families that include children who were receiving free meals at school when school was open. It’s about \$350 for every child who was receiving free meals at school and it will come in the mail on an ACCESS card. School meals are also not considered under public charge rules and it is safe for children in immigrant families to continue to receive free school meals once schools reopen.
- ✓ **Food banks and pantries** are not new, but they are distributing more food than ever. Receiving food from food distribution sites never creates public charge risk. If you are in Philadelphia, you can find food resources here:
<https://www.phila.gov/food/#/>

There are many other programs that are not new, but that are available to many immigrant families and are safe to receive. See CLS’s public charge webpage for more information about who can safely receive other public benefits and assistance programs not listed on this flyer:

<https://clsphila.org/public-benefits/public-charge-immigration-benefits/>