



ATTENTION!

THE AMERICAN RESCUE ACT HAS REAL BENEFITS FOR YOU!

Here's your checklist!

More Income for Your Household



At least **\$3,000 per child** will be sent to families over the year, starting this July. To make sure you get your payment, make sure your child has a social security number and file a 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes, and you will receive payments automatically. The good news is that this direct federal benefit will not count as income for SNAP, Medicaid, or Child Care benefits on next year's federal tax returns.

\$1,400 per adult and child in your household will be sent to every family with income under \$75,000 for single parent families and \$150,000 for two parent families. To make sure you receive your check, your child must have a social security number and you must file a 2019 or 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe any taxes.

\$3,000 per child
\$1,400 per adult and child

To find a location near you where you can get help filing your tax return for free, visit: **IRS VITA Free Tax Prep** (irs.treasury.gov).

New Unemployment Benefits



\$300 more per week will be added onto what you receive from your state in unemployment compensation through September 6th, 2021 and the Pandemic Unemployment benefits will go through September 6th as well.

Unemployment benefits of up to **\$10,200** received since the pandemic began **will not count as taxable income** for your 2020 federal tax return.

\$300 more per week

For more information and register: PA Unemployment Compensation (paclaims.pa.gov).

\$10,200 Tax Exempt Unemployment Benefits

More info here: <http://bit.ly/ARPFactSheet>

Reduced Health Care Costs



If you are insured via Obamacare or want to be, your **monthly health care payments** will be **capped at 8.5%** of your income.

Your COVID related **health care costs are waived** if you are insured via Medicaid or your child needs COVID care or a vaccine and they are enrolled in CHIP.

If you were laid off or had your hours cut back due to the pandemic, you might be able to get six months of free health insurance through COBRA. Employees who are or were eligible for their employer's COBRA plan -- whether or not they took it up when they became eligible -- now can enroll without a premium through the end of September of 2021. If you are uninsured, paying for individual insurance yourself, or already covered through your employer's COBRA plan, ask your former employer if you are eligible for a COBRA subsidy. (Your employer's costs will be fully reimbursed.)

8.5% income cap

Find your details here: Pennie - Connecting Pennsylvanians to Health Coverage (pennie.com).

Coverage for COVID-19 Testing

Vaccinations, and Treatment | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (cbpp.org).

6 months FREE health insurance

call former employer

Decreasing the Cost of Internet Services



\$50 a month off your Internet bills for approximately six months. Comcast and Verizon are both offering this benefit. Families may qualify if you have a child receiving free or reduced priced school meals, or a PELL grant for college or training, or otherwise if you are low income. This benefit is available to families even if they owe their Internet provider for past bills, but the benefit cannot be applied to the debt owed.

\$50 per month

To find out if you qualify for this help: Household Eligibility - Universal Service Administrative Company (usac.org).

Keeping a Roof Over Your Head



The federal legislation includes real support to help **cover back mortgage and rent payments** for families that cannot afford to make payments due to the pandemic. These funds can also go toward utility bills. Details are still being worked out.

Rent and Mortgage

Watch this space: **PHFA Coronavirus Resources**.

Extra Help Paying for Food



Receive up to **\$6.82 per day** for school day meals if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals and your child's school has been closed for in-person instruction (adjusted where there is hybrid instruction); and for any child under 18, you may also receive help with the cost of summer meals.

Families already receiving SNAP may receive these new benefits on a SNAP EBT card; families with school-aged children not receiving SNAP will have a **P-EBT card** mailed to them for each child.

If you receive nutrition benefits through the Women, Infants & Children Program, Pennsylvania may increase your WIC benefits by **\$35 per month for more fruits and vegetables** through September 30.

\$6.82 per day for meals

Find out more here: Pandemic EBT Guide (dhs.pa.gov).

P-EBT card

Find out more here: Pandemic EBT Guide (dhs.pa.gov).

\$35 more per month

Register here for WIC: WIC Online Pre-Application (pawic.com).

Approximately **\$1,500** might be owed to you if your family qualified for the maximum SNAP benefit since last September.

If you are eligible **you will automatically receive these funds.**

An extra **\$95 a month** will become available in May for families who currently qualify for the maximum amount of SNAP benefits. Your family may also be eligible for more SNAP benefits.

Check here: <http://bit.ly/CLSSNAP> or <http://bit.ly/SNAPtemp>



Keeping Your Job and Dealing with COVID's Impact on Your Family



If you earn under the income listed in the table below, you are eligible for a subsidy to **cover the cost of child care** and more families can enroll in the subsidy program now. Apply for a subsidy by calling the Early Learning Resource Center in your county.

Child Care Coverage

Find the number for your county here: Early Learning Resource Centers (dhs.pa.gov).

YOU CAN GET SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE IF:

YOUR FAMILY HAS	YOUR FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR THE YEAR IS LESS THAN
2 members (one is a child)	\$34,480
3 members (one or more children)	\$43,440
4 members (one or more children)	\$52,400
5 members (one or more children)	\$61,360

You can lower what you owe in federal taxes by declaring your child care expenses for the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. Doing so can **reduce what you owe in federal taxes by as much as \$4,000** if you spent at least twice as much for child care for any child 13 years old or younger; **or \$8,000** if you spent more than \$16,000 for child care for two or more children. And if you owe less in taxes, you will get the rest of the credit paid to you directly.

Reduce Federal Taxes

Find more details here: <https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories-fact-sheet-the-american-rescue-plan-will-deliver-immediate-economic-relief-to-families>.

You can **be paid for any leave** you need to take care of someone in your family affected by COVID or if your child's school or child care program is closed. Your employer will be reimbursed for paying you through September 30.

Paid Leave

Find more details here: COVID-19 and the Family and Medical Leave Act Questions and Answers (dol.gov).

