

The Embassy of Cabo Verde in Washington D.C.,
and the Community Task-Force
have compiled the list below

With

Potential Resources to Support the Community

Working together with the Community Task-Force, the Embassy will update this information with the list of organizations that are helping undocumented immigrants with food, rent and other resources during this time. Example: massundocufund.org;

In the same way, efforts are in place to improve the contact with the Cabo-Verdeans in Brockton and other areas, in order to provide the possible support, assistance and solidarity.

email: covid-19@caboverdeus.net

Cabo-Verdean without email access can always get in touch through the Facebook of the Embassy of Cape Verde in the United States of America by sending messages and video calls to:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmbaixadaCaboVerdeWashingtonDC/>

USEFULL INFORMATION

a) **REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION**

For those who qualify for unemployment under MA law

- **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:** Have earned at least:
 - \$5,100 during the last 4 completed calendar quarters, and
 - 30 times the weekly benefit amount you would be eligible to collect
 - Be legally authorized to work in the U.S.
 - Be unemployed, or working significantly reduced hours, through no fault of your own;
 - Be able and willing to begin suitable work without delay when offered

- For unemployment claims

All requirements regarding attending seminars at the MassHire career centers have been suspended;

Deadlines missed by claimants due to effects of COVID-19 may be excused under DUA's good cause provision;

“Worksearch” requirements will be interpreted to appropriately permit claimants affected by COVID-19 to collect benefits;

- Temporary workplace shutdowns
 - o DUA allows people impacted by COVID-19 to collect unemployment benefits if their workplace is shut down and expects to reopen. This applies to all full-time and part-time employees.

The following conditions apply:

- ♣ Workers must remain in contact with their employers during the shutdown.
- ♣ Workers must be available for any work their employer may have for them that they are able to do.
- ♣ An employer may request to extend the period of the covered shutdown to 8 weeks, and workers will remain eligible for the longer period under the same conditions described above.
- ♣ If necessary, DUA may extend these time periods for workers and employers.
- ♣ Employers who have been paying into the system for themselves (are receiving a W-2) are able to apply as well.

- HOW LONG: 26 weeks
- APPLY: <https://uionline.detma.org/Claimant/Core/Login.ASPX>

b) **PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)**

- WHO:
 - Self-employed;
- Independent Contractors

PUA is a program open to the following individuals:

- * Self-employed individuals, including gig workers, freelancers, and independent contractors
- * Those seeking part-time employment
- * Claimants that have an insufficient work history to qualify for benefits
- * And claimants that have been laid off from churches and religious institutions and are not eligible for benefits under state law. PUA is a separate program from regular unemployment insurance;

- o Gig Economy workers
- o Those seeking part-time work
- o Those who have insufficient work history to qualify for benefits
- o Those who have exhausted all rights to regular or extended benefits under MA or federal law or PEUC
- o Those who have been laid off from churches or religious institutions and are not eligible for benefits under state law

- o Those who are otherwise not qualified for regular or extended benefits or PEUC
- ELIGIBILITY: Individuals must “self-certify” that they are able to work, but are prevented by doing so because of ONE of the following
 - o The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a diagnosis
 - o A member of the individual’s household has been diagnosed
 - o The individual is providing care to a household or family member who has been diagnosed
 - o A child or other person for whom the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility as a result of COVID-19
 - o The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency
 - o The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine
 - o The individual was scheduled to start work and does not have a job as a result of COVID-19
 - o The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19
 - o The individual has to quit their job because of COVID-19
 - o The individual’s place of employment is closed because of COVID-19
- HOW LONG: 39 weeks
 - o Retroactive to February 2, 2020 or the first week the claimant was unable to work as a result of COVID19, whichever date is later
- APPLY: DUA will begin to receive applications in late April

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Applying at:
www.mass.gov/pua<<http://www.mass.gov/pua>>

c) **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)**

- WHO: Those who have exhausted previous unemployment benefits including Regular Unemployment Compensation
- ELIGIBILITY:
 - o The benefit year of the individual’s claim for Regular Unemployment Compensation must have expired after July 1, 2019
 - o The individual seeking Federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation (FEUC) CANNOT otherwise have rights to benefits under state or federal law
 - o The individual cannot be receiving benefits from Canada.
 - o The individual must be able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work, except that a state shall apply flexibility in meeting work search requirements for individuals unable to search for work because of COVID-19, including because of illness, quarantine, or movement restriction.
- HOW LONG: Up to 13 weeks
 - o The claimant can be compensated for the week beginning March 29, 2020 and the last payable week is December 26, 2020

- APPLY: DUA is waiting for additional federal guidance

d) **FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)**

- WHO: Those would qualify for-
 - o Regular Unemployment Compensation
 - o Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
 - o Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation,
- WHAT: This program offers an additional \$600 per week if you receive unemployment benefits listed above
- HOW LONG: Retroactive to March 29, 2020 until July 31, 2020
- APPLY: If you receive Regular Unemployment Compensation, the \$600 is automatic
 - o If you receive the \$600 through the programs listed above, once you are able to apply and are approved for those programs, the \$600 will be applied automatically and retroactively

Unemployment Assistance [UPDATED]

o Please review updated FAQ: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/update-massachusetts-department-of-unemployment-assistance-announces-guidance-on-cares#frequently-asked-questions->

Note / Alert:

§ You cannot apply for both PUA and Regular Unemployment at the same time, it must be one then the other, if possible

§ If you earned more than \$5100, you MUST apply for regular unemployment FIRST

§ If you exhausted all Regular Unemployment, right now, you may apply for PUA, BUT once PEUC is available, your PUA benefits will switch to PEUC

§ If you have a W2 (that made more than \$5100) and a business, you MUST apply for Regular Unemployment FIRST and exhaust those benefits

OTHER SUPPORTS AVAILABLE:

- a) **FOOD SECURITY:** MA DPH is submitting a waiver request for EBT vendors and online vendors for online purchasing and for SNAP benefits to have curbside pick-up for groceries;
- b) **FOOD BANKS / FEEDING AMERICA** ([add information](#))

c) **FOSTER CHILDREN:** MA is making an additional \$100 per child payment to foster parents for April, May, and June;

d) **PROVIDE GRAFIC TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS:** Possibility to make available and share resource graphic on social media, in order to get the graphic translated with the help of Bridgewater State University into Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish, thanks to the President Fred Clark and Dr. Wing-kai To of Bridgewater State University. As soon as the graphic translated into additional languages are available, it will be shared to all members to disseminate in social media pages, if applicable (including the Embassy).

e) Considering that school systems are now conducting teaching/learning remotely, several school districts are providing laptops, chrome books, tablet for remote learning which requires the internet, Comcast is offering 2 months free internet to eligible households. Eligibility is based on income. Those eligible for National School Lunch Program, housing assistance, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI and others are generally eligible. If not an existing Comcast Internet customer, you can sign up from your mobile device at <https://apply.internetessentials.com>. If you apply by April 30, 2020 and are pre-approved you will receive the 2 month free promotion. After that it will cost \$9.95 per month plus tax unless you choose to cancel, which is an option.

f) **COVID-19 COMMUNITY CARE;**

- **BOSTON COVID-19 COMMUNITY CARE** - <http://bit.ly/bostonresources-covid19>

g) **MUTUAL AID**

Communities are organizing locally to assure Mutual aid, using the google toolkit: <http://bit.ly/covid19-mutual-aid> ;

For more information about the “Human Network Initiative”, coordinating these efforts locally, see their website for updates and the networking lists:

<https://www.humannetworkinitiative.com/neighborhoods>

h) **SUPPORT TO UNDOCUMENTES INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES:**

- Massachusetts Jobs with Justice: to provide financial assistance to undocumented individuals and families who have lost their homes, wages, and/or employment due to COVID-19: **Covid-19 Remote:** (617) 433-8391;
- **Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network** (beyondboston.org)

Guidelines used by the Boston Immigrant Justice Accompaniment Network
Adapt and localize for your group (Cabo-Verdeans);

- Updated information on national resources:
<https://mydocumentedlife.org/2020/03/30/resources-for-undocumented-immigrants-and-their-families-during-covid-19/>

i) ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO DETAINED CITIZENS:

Pesquisar “*Prisons & Detention Resources*”, incluindo trabalhos publicados nas fontes seguintes:

- [ACLU](#), [Color of Change](#), [Immigrant Legal Resource Center](#),
- [Prison Policy Initiative](#),
- <https://thejusticecollaborative.com/covid19/>
- [Cartoon Explanation with Details for Service Workers--Spanish](#) - From Organized Communities Against Deportations (OCAD)