

April Lynch, Deputy County Executive

Notice to Furloughed Employees and Employees Who Experience a Reduction of Hours

As we continue to navigate through COVID-19, Oakland County is enacting the following:

- A temporary reduction of hours for employees due to decreased service levels.
- A temporary administrative leave without pay (furlough) for employees who are experiencing a curtailment of work due to decreased service levels.

Oakland County is applying for unemployment benefits on behalf of all full-time employees that have experienced a furlough or reduction in wages.

What is a furlough?

A leave of absence, also referred to as administrative leave without pay.

Who is eligible for unemployment?

The State of Michigan's Unemployment Agency (UIA) will review each case and determine who is eligible. Unemployment benefits are temporarily being extended to employees who are no longer being paid OR are experiencing a reduction in hours.

How much will I be eligible for if I am still earning a paycheck?

The UIA makes all supplemental income determinations. As of April 27, 2020, employees who are furloughed or who have a reduction in hours are eligible for a percentage of \$362 per week (state benefits dependent on wages) and a temporary, additional weekly benefit of \$600 (federal benefits).

How does the Employer Filed Claims process work?

Employer Filed Claims process allows Oakland County to file claims on behalf of the employer, not the employee. Oakland County will be responsible for submitting employees' claims directly with the UIA.

What do I need to do to file for unemployment?

Nothing, Oakland County has partnered with the UIA to file claims on behalf of Oakland County employees.

What do I need to do after Oakland County submits my claim?

You will receive a notification within 3-4 days to your home address from the UIA stating that a claim has been filed on your behalf. This notification will provide information on how to certify your claim, which will be approximately two weeks after the initial claim is submitted.

What do I need to do to certify?

In the certification process, you are certifying your wage information. This would be \$0.00 for furloughed employees not receiving any hours, or for employees experiencing a reduction of hours, the amount that was earned in your recent checks with a reduction of hours. We are advising employees to create a MiWAM account in order to efficiently certify.

How will I receive payment of unemployment benefits?

With Employer Filed Claims, all benefit payments default to a pre-loaded debit card that is mailed to your home. If you create a MiWAM account, you can make changes on how you'd like to receive your benefit payment. For employees who will continue working with a reduction of hours, you will receive your payroll check per usual in addition to your unemployment benefit payment, either by debit card (default) or whichever method you select using your MiWAM account.

Employees can create an online account at www.Michigan.gov/UIA to certify and check the progress of their claim.

If you have questions, contact Kate Saranas at saranask@oakgov.com or 248-858-0545.