

On **Friday, August 21**, Gov. Whitmer announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had approved her administration's request for **funding to provide Michiganders receiving unemployment benefits with an additional \$300 per week**. Payments will be retroactive for eligible residents to August 1, 2020.

Whitmer's administration made the request in response to continued Congressional inaction following the expiration of supplementary federal unemployment support in the midst of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

While these additional funds will certainly help to keep Michigan families on their feet during this crisis, Michigan House Democrats know that long-term solutions are needed to provide residents with the financial security they need now and long after this pandemic is over.

As part of our comprehensive Michigan Strong plan, House Democrats have introduced an eight-bill package to deliver support to Michiganders who need it most.

The package would:

- Allow residents to receive unemployment benefits during a declared infectious disease emergency if they are quarantining, self-isolating, caring for their children at home, or their place of employment is closed as a result of state action. (HB 5882 Rabhi)
- Lower the high quarter earnings eligibility requirement to enable part-time and low-wage workers to receive benefits. (HB 5883 Witwer)
- Increase weekly benefits to allow Michiganders to better support themselves and their families during difficult times. (HB 5884 Sabo)
- Extend benefits to independent contractors during a declared emergency. (HB 5885 Lasinski)
- Allow seasonal workers to receive benefits during the off-season. (HB 5886 Kennedy)
- Allow low-wage school employees to receive benefits during summer months. (HB 5887 Guerra)
- Require employers to report full wages, including tips, to UIA so workers receive full benefits. (HB 5888 Elder)

For more information on the Michigan House Democrats' proposed unemployment improvements, visit <a href="https://housedems.com/house-dems-plan-protects-workers-during-pandemic-recession/">https://housedems.com/house-dems-plan-protects-workers-during-pandemic-recession/</a>.

