

**EXPANDED**  
**UNEMPLOYMENT**  
**ASSISTANCE**

# EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- ▶ Governed by Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
- ▶ Website is called CONNECT; new website plus paper applications accepted due to overwhelming number of applications
- ▶ Duration is for 12 weeks with maximum payment of \$275.00 per week (one of the worst in the nation)

# EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- ▶ If unemployment rate exceeds 5%, duration of payments can be extended beyond 12 weeks (for every 0.5% increase above 5% a week is added) up to maximum period of 23 weeks
- ▶ Certain requirements waived (1-week mandatory payment delay that prevented applicants from receiving their benefits during the first week of unemployment, work search requirement and work registration requirement for applicants requesting benefits for the weeks of March 15 to May 2). You still need to log on every 2 weeks to request your benefits.

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- ▶ CARES Act: Federal add-on payment of \$600.00 per week starting March 29, 2020 for a maximum of 4 months (ends July 31, 2020)
- ▶ Floridians who are self-employed, non-profit workers or contractors (including any gig economy workers such as Uber drivers) do not qualify for state benefits; however, under the CARES Act they can apply for the \$600 per week federal benefit through the state system

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- ▶ Based on statistics early this week, Florida has one of the worst payouts of any state -- \$2 billion to date (\$1.2 billion is for federal unemployment benefits)
- ▶ Recent Governor announcement: 99.99% of Floridians who qualify for unemployment and have submitted their application properly have been paid