

## **NEW COVID BENEFITS**

At the Arc of Chemung- Schuyler, we deeply value your commitment to our agency and the individuals we support. We know that you may have heard of some benefits available to you because of new laws passed to support the workforce across our country during the COVID emergency. This can be a confusing time and we hope the following information is helpful to you.

### Economic Impact Payments

The federal government will be sending out relief checks to a large number of people, as follows:

- \$1,200 - if you file your taxes individually and have an "adjusted gross income" of no more than \$75,000
- \$2,400 - if you file as a married couple with a joint return and your income is no more than \$150,000
- Parents also receive \$500 for each qualifying child
- Checks should begin to be issued around the third week of April

For more information visit: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/economic-impact-payments-what-you-need-to-know>

### State & Federal Tax Returns

Normally, personal income tax returns must be filed by April 15 each year. Due to the COVID emergency, NYS and the federal government have extended this deadline until July 15, 2020. In NY, if you had tax payments due on April 15, those may also be deferred until July 15, 2020 without penalties or interest. See for more info: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/press/alerts/nys-tax-response-to-covid-19.htm>

### Evictions & Foreclosure Proceedings Relief

On March 20, NYS announced that for the next 90 days there will be no enforcement of eviction proceedings for residential leases and that mortgage foreclosure proceedings will be suspended for 90 days. This does not necessarily mean that you rent or mortgage payments are not due or that it is waived. It means that your landlord cannot evict you for nonpayment of rent for at least 90 days (until about mid-June). For more information click here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2028-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

### Student Loan Relief

Certain federal student loan payments (including principal and interest) will be temporarily suspended through September 30. Interest will not accrue during this 6-month period. Not every federal loan qualifies for this relief and borrowers should contact the company that services their loan to find out whether they qualify for this relief. For more information click here:

<https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus>

*The information provided in this alert is not legal or tax advice. It is for general informational purposes. You should consult your attorney or tax professional with any questions.*

### Life, Property (Homeowners and Renters) & Casualty Insurance

If you have a life insurance policy and can demonstrate financial hardship, you may qualify for relief for 90 days from the payment of your premiums.

For property (homeowners and renters) and casualty insurance policies, you may also qualify for a 60-day grace period for the payment of premiums if you are experiencing financial hardship.

You should reach out to your insurance carrier for more details.

### Health Insurance

If you or a family member find yourself without health insurance, you may be able to obtain coverage through NYS during a special enrollment period that runs from 4/1-4/15. In addition, if a loved one loses their job due to COVID, you may be able to apply with NYS for coverage. Visit [www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or call 855-355-5777 for additional information.

### Employee Assistance Program & Other Resources

NY has made an emotional support line available for any New Yorker experiencing increased anxiety due to this crisis. The line is staffed by volunteers, including mental health professionals, with training in crisis counseling. The number is 1-844-863-9314.

**The Arc of Chemung Schuyler EAP** – Please also remember the resources made available to you through our Employee Assistance Program. Our EAP Total Care EAP can be reached 800 –252-4555 or 800-225-2527.

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