



CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

Industry News & Resources

1. Michigan Unemployment Insurance Agency (UIA) to Provide Path for Independent Contractor Benefits.

Michigan Realtors® is currently working with Michigan's UIA to get information out to Realtors® seeking to apply for unemployment benefits under the new CARES Act.

Michigan took the important first step today when Governor Whitmer signed an agreement between Michigan and the U.S. Dept. of Labor to implement Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and Compensation programs that grant benefits to workers who do not already qualify for state unemployment benefits. In addition, the agreement also increases weekly benefits for all unemployed workers by \$600 a week and extends benefit payments from 26 to 39 weeks.

In the coming days, the UIA will provide additional guidance regarding eligibility and application details as it implements these new programs. This may include a new portal specifically for independent contractors and others not previously eligible for unemployment benefits. UIA has asked us to stress patience as they get the new benefit process up and running.

If you are a Realtor® attempting to apply for unemployment benefits right now, the system is not currently set up for self-employed individuals. If you have been denied, there is no need to reapply, the UIA will automatically review the claim.

Michigan Realtors® is in contact with UIA and we will be communicating with members as soon as the benefits are available.

2. Department of Insurance and Financial Services Clarifies the Path to Real Estate Closings under Executive Order 2020-21.

The Governor and the Department of Insurance and Financial Services released a [Bulletin](#) to clarify the scope of Financial Services under Executive Order 2020-21. Specifically, we now have clear guidance that Home Inspectors and Appraisers are considered Critical Infrastructure Employees under the Order. This is a welcome clarification for Realtors® and their clients closing transactions over these last two weeks of the "Stay at Home" order. We have updated our Legal Q&A accordingly.

In the same communication, the [Bulletin](#) also reiterates the Governor's directive that Realtors® are considered non-critical under the order. As frustrating as this continued position is for many members, it is important to note that the Governor has taken an extremely hard line on continued business operations for many industries. We have been in constant communication with the Governor's Office and have been repeatedly advised that this designation is not a value judgement on the profession or its role in the transactions, but rather an attempt to limit the further spread of COVID-19 through open houses, and showings. Nonetheless, we appreciate how difficult this designation is for your business.

As stated above, as always, and particularly through this crisis, we will continue to work with the Governor's Office and Legislative Leadership on your behalf, seeking clarification where needed.

3. Summary Page of All Michigan Realtors® Communications

Keep track of all COVID-19 related communications [here](#).



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