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CITY LINKS

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EMPLOYMENT

Primary Resource:

[Apply for Unemployment Benefits in Massachusetts](#)

[Spanish - Apply for Unemployment Benefits in Massachusetts](#) - mobile phone and desktop compatible

- [Massachusetts Coronavirus and Unemployment Handbook](#). Resources in Spanish and English.
- [Guide to completing unemployment benefits](#) in Spanish
- [How to apply for unemployment benefits video](#) (English)
- The Department of Unemployment Assistance is not accepting phone calls at this time. You can request a call from a department agent by completing this [contact request form](#). The contact request form is available in [multiple languages here](#) (scroll down).

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - The CARES Act has expanded unemployment benefits to self-employed individuals, including gig workers, contractors, and independent consultants. To file for PUA benefits, complete the [online application here](#). This application is not available in Spanish, but there are [guidance materials in Spanish here](#).

MA Attorney General Fair Labor Division [Employee Rights and Employer Obligations](#) during COVID-19 You can apply for unemployment benefits as long as you have work authorization (you do not need to be a U.S. Citizen). Note that unemployment benefits do NOT count as a public charge. This also applies to expanded unemployment benefits under the CARES Act.

Additional Resources:

- [Step by Step Guide to Filing for Unemployment](#)
- Greater Boston Legal Services is offering assistance with filing an online Unemployment Insurance claim. Call (617) 603-1530 (Spanish) or (617) 603-1639 (all other languages). English flyer [here](#).
- Somerville Community Corporation is a resource. The building is closed, but visit: <http://somervillecdc.org/> phone- 617-410-9905 email info@somervillecdc.org
- For assistance applying for unemployment, Greater Boston Legal Services is providing free help by phone: 617-603-1530. [Spanish flyer available here](#). Multiple languages available.
- Know Your Rights: Leave and Benefit Rights in MA Infosheet from Justice at Work/GBLS/LCR
 - [English](#)

- [Spanish](#)
- [Living document with greater legal detail](#)
- [Worker Safety information from MassCOSH](#)

BUSINESS SUPPORT

Primary Resource:

[City of Somerville Resources for Businesses Website.](#)

[CityofSomerville/CoronavirusHelp](#) “About the CARES Act Federal Aid” and “Businesses, Employee, and Artist Assistance” tabs

- CARES Act Relief for small-businesses, sole proprietorships, and nonprofits
 - [The U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship guide](#) on small business loan and relief option
 - [Guide to loans available to non-profits as result of CARES Act](#)
 - [Greater Boston Legal Services Guide to applying for Paycheck Protection Program](#)
 - [FAQ for Immigrant-Owned Worker Cooperatives on Federal Coronavirus Funding Options](#)
- [Small Business Administration Disaster Fund](#)
 - Customer service number has translation services available upon request: (800) 877-8339
 - [Infosheet en Espanol](#)
 - [Infosheet in English](#)
- [Small Business Loan Fund](#)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Primary Resource:

[Apply for Unemployment Benefits in Massachusetts](#)

[Spanish - Apply for Unemployment Benefits in Massachusetts](#) - mobile phone and desktop compatible

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - The CARES Act has expanded unemployment benefits to self-employed individuals, including gig workers, contractors, and independent consultants. To file for PUA benefits, complete the [online application here](#). This application is not available in Spanish, but there are [guidance materials in Spanish here](#).

[How the CARES Act affects you](#) → see the “About the CARES Act Federal Aid” tab

- Includes info on: stimulus checks (\$1200), supplemental unemployment (\$600/wk), expanded unemployment (to self-employed), small business supports.

[CARES Act Stimulus checks](#): you will automatically receive if you filed taxes in 2018 or 2019, or if you receive Social Security retirement, disability (SSDI), or survivor benefits. The Internal

Revenue Service (IRS) will automatically direct deposit the money into the bank account on file with the IRS. If you did not share a direct deposit bank account number with the IRS, you can enter your [direct deposit information here](#) starting in mid-April. If the IRS does not receive your direct deposit information, they will mail the check to the address on the most recent tax filing. You can [update your address here](#).

- Only people who filed with SSN (and SSN for EVERY person on tax form) are eligible for the stimulus check. Even if just one person on the form used an ITIN, no one will receive (not even SSN holders) will receive the check.

[Somerville Cares COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) → Accepting donations at this time. Once enough has been fundraised it will be open to any Somerville residents OR people who work (including those recently laid off) in Somerville. Open to all regardless of immigration status, no SSN will be required.

[Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) → established by Governor Baker. Accepting donations at this time, community organizations will be selected to disperse funds to families in need.

Support for filing unemployment:

Greater Boston Legal Services is offering assistance with filing an online Unemployment Insurance claim. Call (617) 603-1530 (Spanish) or (617) 603-1639 (all other languages) English flyer [here](#).

Relief Funds for Individuals/Service Workers

(** indicates that undocumented immigrants are eligible for assistance)

- [Mass Jobs with Justice Emergency Funds list](#)** Very comprehensive guide, available in several languages.
- [Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville Network](#)**
- [Welcome Project Relief Fund](#)** - Available to residents of Somerville, Medford, Everett, Malden, or Cambridge
- [Parenting Journey It Takes a Village Emergency Fund](#). To request funds, [complete this form](#). Donations are accepted [here](#).
- [Massachusetts Mutual Aid List](#)**
- [Formulario de solicitud para los trabajadores de la industria de servicios de Boston que buscan fondos de emergencia](#)** → “Form for service industry workers in Boston looking for emergency funds” google doc for those who need help. Corresponding GoFundMe with info about organizers is [here](#). Note that as of April 1st, this fund is no longer accepting applications. A second round may open again.
- [United Way COVID Family Support Fund](#) → link to donate. Applications for assistance will be on website soon. Unclear if this will be available to undocumented immigrants.

- [One Fair Wage Emergency Coronavirus Tipped and Service Worker Support Fund**](#). Corresponding page to donate is [here](#).
- [Philanthropy Massachusetts Relief Fund List](#). Another list of economic supports throughout Massachusetts.
- [UndocuFund**](#) → link to donate. Organized by Mass Jobs with Justice, the Matahari Women Workers' Center, and One Fair Wage. The application will be [here](#), but the application process is still being worked out so check back later.
- [Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund**](#) → Local fund created by Asian American advocacy organizations, accepting donations.
- [Support Undocumented Families Fund**](#) → form for people who are undocumented and need assistance. Organized by Betancourt Macias Family Scholarship Foundation (UndocuScholars). Corresponding GoFundMe page collecting donations is [here](#).
- [Bartender Emergency Assistance Program**](#)

Artists

Primary Resource: <https://sommervilleartscouncil.org/covid19>

- [Boston Music Maker Relief Fund](#)
- [PEAR Fund by Club Passim](#) (musicians)
- [Billboard.com State-by-State Resource Guide for Music Professionals Who Need Help](#)
- [Theater Community Benevolent Fund](#)
- [Boston Singers Relief Fund](#)
- [Boston Artist Relief Fund \(City of Boston\)](#)
- [Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts](#)
- [Rauschenberg Emergency Grants](#) → One time grants for up to 5k for artists anywhere in US experiencing emergency medical expenses (this is not a Coronavirus specific grant)
- [Music Maker Relief Fund](#)
- [Musicians' Corona Relief Fund Application](#)
- National Endowment for the Arts: [COVID-19 Resources for Artists and Arts Organizations](#)
- [The Soze Foundation and Task Force](#) - supports artists and activists whose work has been impacted by COVID-19
- [ArtSake- Covid-19 Funding for Artists](#)

NonProfit Organizations

[The Boston Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund](#)

Effort to rapidly deploy flexible resources to organizations in Greater Boston that are working with communities that are disproportionately affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

FOOD ACCESS

Primary Resource:

[Food Resources for Students and Families in Somerville](#). Stop by one of our sites for a free grab-and-go breakfast and lunch. No ID required and one person can pick up for the entire family. Please bring a bag if you are picking up for multiple family members or for someone who needs assistance. Additionally, distribution of free diapers to families with babies or young children will be every Wednesday from 9am-11am at the four school food distribution sites.

[Somerville Food Security](#) during COVID-19. List of food pantries, where to use SNAP benefits, and other food access information.

[City of Somerville COVID-19 Emergency Food Sign-Up](#) → Please limit use to once per week. Pick up at 165 Broadway, delivery available to those who qualify (seniors, people in quarantine, people with limited mobility).

Seniors with questions can also call the Council on Aging for more information at (617) 625-6600, ext 2300.

HOUSING

Primary Resource

Any questions about evictions, rent or mortgage payments, or housing matters should be directed to the **Office of Housing Stability** intake line: Call 617-625-6600 Ext. 2581 and leave a message.

OHS staff are working remotely but are checking intake line regularly. [Somerville Office of Housing Stability website](#) is updated regularly with info about housing court and resources.

[Massachusetts Residential Assistance for Families in Translation \(RAFT\)](#) program is now available to an extended population during COVID-19. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$4000 in housing assistance. To apply, residents must first complete [this pre-application](#) through Metro Housing Boston, the designated RAFT agency covering Somerville. More information about the program is available on the [MA state website](#) (although be warned that many links are broken). A detailed description of the steps to apply are on the [City of Somerville website](#), under the "Housing & Utility Assistance" tab.

[Somerville Eviction Moratorium](#)

Additional Resources:

City Life/Vida Urbana emergency evictions hotline: English (617) 934-5006 and Spanish (617) 397-3773

College Students: [UHaul 30-Days free storage for college students](#) displaced by Coronavirus

TAXES

[The IRS has extended the federal income tax](#) filing deadline to July 15, 2020.

[Massachusetts personal income tax](#) filing date has been extended to July 15th.

[Somerville has extended the deadline](#) for the following:

- **Property taxes** that would have been due May 1st are now due June 29 without interest or penalty.
- **Excise taxes** with a due date of March 10th or later are now due June 29 without interest or penalty.

BILLS AND UTILITIES

[Somerville has extended the deadline](#) for water bill payment. Bills that were due March 10th or later are now due June 29 without interest or penalty.

The MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU) has [suspended the disconnection of utility services](#) for nonpayment during this state of emergency.

[National Grid suspending collections and shut-offs](#)

- In email 3/19: “Collections activities & disconnections – We have temporarily suspended collections-related activities, including service disconnections. Customers needing assistance, can view our help making payments page for more information or call to speak with one of our Customer Advocates. Note: Call wait times may be longer than usual.”

[Eversource](#)

- In email 3/19: “As a member of the communities we serve across New England, we’re here to support our residential and business customers through this challenging time, including:
- Suspending disconnection of service for non-payment
- Eliminating late payment charges
- Offering a flexible payment plan — with no down payment — for any past-due amount”

[Comcast](#)

- In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Comcast is offering [60-days of free Internet](#) access to new low-income subscribers via their Internet Essentials program, which normally is available to low-income families for \$9.95 per month.
- Existing Comcast customers will [not be assessed late charges or have their internet disconnected](#) if they contact Comcast and let them know that they can’t pay the bill.

Lifeline program - Free emergency cell phones (please read qualifications carefully)

- <https://www.masslegalhelp.org/income-benefits/cellphone>
- <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>
- <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/lifeline-services>

COURTS

Primary Resource:

[Courts in MA are closed until at least May 4th](#)

Courts are closed except for emergencies. **Restraining Orders 209A** and **Section 35** applications for substance use disorders are considered emergency services. During regular court hours 8:30-4:30pm you can call Somerville District Court 617-666-8000 ext. 2213787 and they will assist you in filing an application over the phone. Emergency Restraining orders can be filed in person at the Somerville Police Department any time outside of court hours, at 220 Washington St., Somerville or call 617-625-1212 for more information.

Additional resource:

[Mass Legal Help Information on Court Closures](#)

[Getting an emergency 209 A restraining order when the courts are closed](#)

SAFETY

Call 911 if you are in danger right now.

Somerville Police Department in-house [COHR \(Community Outreach, Help & Recovery\) Unit](#) continues to be available to provide support via telephone and email. Please feel free to contact Patty Contente 617-625-6600 ext. 7281 or pcontente@police.somerville.ma.us.

Domestic Violence

Restraining Orders 209A are considered emergency services. During regular court hours 8:30-4:30 you can call Somerville District Court 617-666-8000 ext. 2213787 and they will assist you in filing an application over the phone. Emergency Restraining orders can be filed in person at the Somerville Police Department any time outside of court hours, at 220 Washington St., Somerville or call 617-625-1212 for more information.

RESPOND Inc. at 617-623-5900. RESPOND Inc. is a Somerville-based organization with a 24-hour crisis hotline. They can also provide local resources and referrals.

The National Domestic Hotline is available 24 hours a day via phone at 1-800-799-7233, text by sending "LOVEIS" to 22522, TTY: 1-800-787-3224, and chat at www.thehotline.org. En Español

The Crisis Text Line offers 24-hour access to crisis counselors. Text “CONNECT” to 741741. RAINN’s National Sexual Abuse Hotline is available by phone at 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or live chat at www.hotline.rain.org/online 24 hours a day.

The Boston Rape Crisis Center operates a 24-hour hotline at 1-800-841-8371 and live chat support from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Additional Resource: [Getting an emergency 209 A restraining order when the courts are closed.](#)

Child Abuse and Neglect

During regular business hours (8:45 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F) call the [Department of Families and Children \(DCF\)](#) Cambridge/Somerville office: 617-520-8700. Nights, weekends, and holidays dial the Child-at-Risk Hotline at [\(800\) 792-5200](#).

GROCERY AND PHARMACY

Grocery Store Hours

Market Basket

New Hours: 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. every day

Senior-Only Shopping: 6 a.m. - 7 a.m.

Star Market

New Hours: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. every day

Senior-Only Shopping: 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays

Stop and Shop

Senior-Only (60+) Shopping: 6 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. every day

Trader Joe’s (Assembly Square)

New Hours: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. every day

Seniors: 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. every day

Pharmacies

Walgreens (Broadway and Somerville Ave): New hours 9am-9am.

CVS (Medford St, Davis Square, Target on Somerville Ave):

IMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRANTS

[USCIS Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Boston Immigration Court - closed for Non-Detained cases](#)

[Somerville Cares COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) → Accepting donations at this time. Once enough has been fundraised it will be open to any Somerville residents OR people who work (including those recently laid off) in Somerville. Open to all regardless of immigration status, no SSN will be required.

Unemployment: You can apply for unemployment benefits as long as you have work authorization (you do not need to be a U.S. Citizen). Note that unemployment benefits do NOT count as a public charge. This also applies to expanded unemployment programs under the CARES Act. See the Unemployment section above for more information on how to apply.

[Immigrants and the CARES](#) from the National Immigration Law Center

Additional Resources:

[Update in Spanish from Barrales Law](#) about immigration courts and consular appointments

Support for undocumented immigrants/people who don't qualify for most gov't support:

- [Somerville Cares COVID-19 Relief Fund](#) → Accepting donations at this time. Once enough has been fundraised it will be open to any Somerville residents OR people who work (including those recently laid off) in Somerville. Open to all regardless of immigration status, no SSN will be required.
- [Mass Jobs with Justice Emergency Funds list](#)
- [MassUndocuFund](#). Organized by Mass Jobs with Justice, Matahari Women Workers' Center, and One Fair Wage. This fund is accepting donations right now. The application will be [here](#), but the application process is still being worked out so check back later.
- [Cosecha Fund for Undocumented Families](#). Accepting donations at this stage.
- [Pledge your Stimulus Check to Undocumented Families](#). Organized by Cosecha
- [Mutual Aid Medford and Somerville Network](#)
- [Massachusetts Mutual Aid List](#)
- [Benefits Available To People Regardless Of Immigration Status](#)
- [Immigrant Eligibility for Public Programs During COVID-19](#)

Support for Immigrant Business Owners

- [FAQ for Immigrant-Owned Worker Cooperatives on Federal Coronavirus Funding Options](#) (CARES Act)

HEALTH CARE AND INSURANCE

Primary Resource

Apply for health insurance at [MAhealthconnector.org](https://www.mahealthconnector.org) or at [Health Care for All](https://www.healthcareforall.org) (Hotline for health insurance open now 1-800-272-4232).

MAHealth Connector has extended insurance enrollment through April 25: (877) MA-ENROLL (877-623-6765) to gain access to the enrollment period, and go to [MAhealthconnector.org](https://www.mahealthconnector.org) to complete an application. [Source here.](#)

Seeking Health Care

To become a new patient at Cambridge Health Alliance, call 617-665-1305 (8:30 am - 5 pm).

[CHA is offering testing to CHA patients](#) at a drive through tent in the parking lot at 33 Tower Street (Somerville Hospital) 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Monday - Saturday. Testing will be provided to patients who have fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath symptoms.

The [MA Department of Public Health has established drive-through testing](#) in Lowell that has capacity to test up to 1,000 people a day and receive on-site results. Patients will need to pre-register in advance online at [CVS.com](https://www.cvs.com) in order to schedule a same-day time slot for testing.

MassHealth Information

[MassHealth and Coronavirus FAQ](#)

If your MassHealth coverage is due to expire:

If your coverage extends through at least March 18, 2020, your coverage is protected and will not be terminated during the COVID-19 outbreak national emergency and for one month after the emergency period ends. You do not need to send in any additional paperwork to keep your coverage. If you have questions about your coverage, contact our Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900 TTY: (800) 497-4648.

Medical Bills

If you have a problem with health insurance claims or medical bills or think you might be the victim of a scam, the [AG's Health Care Division](#) may be able to help. Call our helpline with questions or complaints at 1-888-830-6277.

If you have health insurance through the Connector, but are making less money than usual, you may be able to reduce your monthly premium. Update your existing Connector profile to reflect your current income by 3/23 to see if you qualify for a lower premium due on 4/1. If the premium is still too high, please request a [premium hardship waiver](#).

Telehealth

The Governor has ordered health insurers to expand coverage of telehealth services in general and to cover services relating to COVID-19 testing and treatment without cost-sharing by patients. The full order is available [here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Primary Resource:

[Mass Substance Abuse and Mental Health Resources](#)

Massachusetts Help Line 800-327-5050 to get help, 8am-10pm Mon-Fri and 8am-6pm weekends.

Additional Resources:

Substance Abuse

- [Massachusetts Behavioral Health Access](#) for detox click center tab available providers. Then search ATS for detox beds.
- [Mass Organization for Addiction Recovery](#) resources, support, advocacy
- [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) 7 days a week
- [List of different Sobriety Apps](#)
- [How to manage](#) when loved one has addiction
- [NIH COVID-19 Implications for substance abuse](#)

Mental Health

- [Active Minds Mental Health Amid Coronavirus](#)
- [CHA Daily Free Live-Online Mindfulness Practice](#)
- A [group of psychotherapists in Somerville](#) has gotten together to provide a platform for mental health support during this time. They are offering free 45-minute sessions to anyone (adults 18+) that needs a little support & connection at this time.

TRANSPORTATION AND VEHICLES

Primary Resource:

[City of Somerville Parking Updates during COVID-19](#).

Request and renew City [parking permits here](#).

Mass Department of Transportation has [extended deadline for vehicle inspections](#).

The RMV has [40+ services available online](#) but new car registrations require an in-person appointment. The appointment can be [reserved here](#). Note that the Somerville Parking Office is

willing to work with new residents and issue temporary permits if they cannot get their car registered in MA quickly.

STUDENT LOANS

Primary Resource: [Federal Student Aid](#)

March 27th Update: The president signed the CARES Act into law on Friday, March 27th. AS part of this Act, payments on federally held student loans are suspended until September 30th, 2020. Loans will not accrue interest during this time, and non-payment will not impact credit scores. Note that this benefit only applies to federally held loans, not private loans or loans held by the institution you attended. [More information is here.](#) **Note that as of March 30th, this information is not reflected on the Federal Student Aid website above.

March 20th Update: Department of Education has suspended Federal Loan Payments and Waived Interest for at least 60 days. [Press Release Here.](#)

Additional Resources:

The [nonprofit Community Service Society](#) has helpful guidance on their website for managing student loans during COVID-19 impacts.

SCHOOLS, DAYCARES, EDUCATION

Primary Resources:

[Somerville Public Schools Coronavirus Updates](#) - closed until May 4th

[SPS Home Learning Resources](#)

[The Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care \(EEC\)](#). As of March 23rd, all licensed child care programs across the Commonwealth will be required to suspend care due to public health concerns. This includes both home-based and center-based providers. Please visit our website for all the latest information, and to view the [list of approved emergency child care sites](#). If your childcare provider is closed but is still charging you, please [Consumer Protection resources here.](#)

Additional Resources

[ACCESSIBLE TEACHING IN THE TIME OF COVID-19](#)

[List of thing to do with kids at home](#)

[List of Educational Companies Offering Free Subscriptions](#)

[Riverside Cambridge-Somerville Early Intervention](#) is working with families who have concerns about the development or behavior of their infant or toddler (up to 3rd birthday) via telehealth interventions. They can support with thinking creatively about activities and routines that support your child's development while you are staying home. They will also be running virtual music groups and parent discussion forums. No referral needed. Email cambsomeireferrals@riversideecc.org or call: 617-702-5755.

[Cosmic Kids Yoga](#) offers yoga classes, mindfulness and relaxation activities for the whole family. These can be offered through their app or free through their Youtube channel. This could be a great family activity, way to start the day, or an idea for taking a break from work. Classes like these can improve self-regulation, focus, and empathy.

BURIAL AND FUNERAL SUPPORT

[Massachusetts Funeral and Burial Payment Assistance](#)

VOTING AND CENSUS

Primary Resource

[MA Secretary of State Elections during COVID-19](#) information

[2020 U.S. Census](#) - field operations (door knockers) have been delayed by two weeks. For residents, they should complete the Census as normal [online](#) or by [phone](#) in 13 different languages. Support in 59 other languages is available via the [Census guides](#) and [video guides](#).

OTHER PROMOTIONS

[Mystic Cleaners](#) (282 Broadway) is offering **free cleaning of scrubs** for all Somerville health care workers through April 2020. Inquiries cleaners.mystic@gmail.com

[Blue Bikes](#) is offering free month memberships for hospital workers and low-income essential employees (in addition to their existing income-eligible discount program) for anyone who wants to use the system at this time. They are sanitizing the bikes more frequently

OTHER RESOURCE LISTS

[Somervillehub.org](#)

[Boston Area Supports and Resources](#)

[Another big list of Boston Area Supports](#)

[Resource list for Undocumented Communities](#)

[Lawyers for Civil Rights](#)

[Information on COVID in 57 different languages](#)

[findhelp.org](#)