



**WE ARE YOUR DOL**



Department  
of Labor

# TOURISM WORKER RECOVERY FUND

## Frequently Asked Questions

On November 8, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul introduced New York State's Tourism Worker Recovery Fund. This \$100 million program will provide one-time payments of **\$2,750** to as many as **36,000** workers in select tourism sectors who have been displaced from employment because these sectors and jobs were least likely to have returned following the pandemic.

Industries impacted especially hard by the pandemic include tourism-specific industries, such as hotels and motels, food service contractors, limousine service, travel agencies and more.

Pre-selected eligible individuals include those employed by businesses in tourism sectors that have yet to regain a substantial portion of their workforce and where a high percentage of workers were still collecting extended federal benefits when the program expired on September 5, 2021.

**In the coming week, the Department of Labor will contact only those New Yorkers who are eligible for this one-time payment directly by email and text message with further instructions. New Yorkers should not call NYS DOL to see if they are eligible. We will contact eligible recipients directly.**

Eligible New Yorkers must complete a self-attestation through DocuSign and certify that they are not fully employed to receive the one-time payment. NYS DOL will run a future cross-check on wage earnings. New Yorkers deemed eligible will receive a one-time payment through direct deposit or a debit card.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHO WILL GET THIS FUNDING?

One-time payments will be made to individuals who are part of select tourism industry sectors that remain impacted by the pandemic and whose Extended Benefits (EB) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) ended on September 5, 2021. Additionally, workers must certify that they are not fully employed to receive the one-time payment.

### WHICH INDUSTRIES WERE SELECTED?

Workers who will receive these payments work for businesses that fall into a number of specific tourism-related industries, including hotels and motels, food service contractors, limousine service, travel agencies and more. Pre-selected eligible individuals include those in tourism sectors that have yet to regain a substantial portion of their workforce and where a high percentage of workers were still collecting extended federal benefits when the program expired on September 5, 2021.

### HOW WERE INDUSTRIES SELECTED?

Based on statistics, the Department of Labor assembled a combined list of those industries that have yet to regain a substantial portion of their workforce **and** those industries where a high percentage of workers were still collecting extended federal benefits. These workers are least likely to be able to return to their previous work as business has not yet recovered.

### **ARE RESTAURANT WORKERS ELIGIBLE?**

No. The food services industry did not meet the above criteria and there are many jobs in these businesses available today across the state. Restaurant workers can find available jobs at [jobzone.ny.gov](http://jobzone.ny.gov).

### **WHEN AND HOW WILL FUNDS BE PAID?**

In the coming weeks, eligible workers will be contacted via email and text message with additional instructions and to complete a self-attestation. They will then be issued a one-time payment through direct deposit or a debit card if direct deposit information is not available.

### **WHAT ABOUT FRAUDULENT CLAIMS?**

The individuals who are eligible have already passed through extensive fraud protection measures as they were receiving UI benefits. In the future, DOL will run a future cross-check on wage earnings.

### **HOW CAN I APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM?**

Individuals have been pre-selected for this program based on the above criteria. **There is no application for this program.** New Yorkers who fit the eligibility requirements are encouraged to look out for an email and/or text message with additional information.