

# F-E-I-N: NYS Labor Commissioner Reardon announces directive requiring employers to provide information New Yorkers need to apply for unemployment benefits

Missing or incorrect federal employer identification number is primary reason unemployment applications cannot be processed

Every business must provide employees with NYS employer registration number, federal employer identification number, and full employer name and address.

New York State Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon on Wednesday announced the New York State Department of Labor has directed all New York-based employers to proactively provide New Yorkers with the information they need to file for unemployment benefits. In a directive sent to over 320,000 businesses, the DOL reminded employers of their legal obligation to provide employees with their employer's New York state employer registration number, federal employer identification number (FEIN), and full employer name and address.

The Department of Labor has identified missing or incorrect FEINs as the No. 1 reason New Yorkers' unemployment benefit applications cannot be immediately processed. Once that information is provided via a phone call, DOL can complete the

claims process

"Applying for unemployment benefits can seem daunting and overwhelming, especially during a public health crisis, and we all have a responsibility to help ease the burden on New Yorkers who are out of work," Reardon said. "The No. 1 reason New Yorkers' applications are incomplete is because they are missing federal employer identification numbers - and today we are reminding businesses they are legally required to provide this information, so former employees can easily file complete applications and access the benefits they deserve."

When applying for unemployment benefits - including both traditional unemployment insurance and pandemic unemployment assistance - New Yorkers are asked for information to identify their former employer, which is used to validate an individual's wage history. This includes their former employer's federal employer identification number and the business entity's

formal, legal name.

While this information is included on New Yorkers' tax forms, including their W2, many people do not keep it readily available - evidenced by the fact the DOL has identified a missing or incorrect FEIN as the top reason New Yorkers' unemployment applications cannot be processed. When an unemployment application contains a missing or incorrect FEIN, it is marked by the DOL's system as "partially-complete," and requires a phone call between the applicant and a DOL representative to resolve.

Under New York state labor law, employers are required to provide this information to employees upon the termination of their employment. In the directive sent to over 320,000 New York-based businesses, the DOL reminded businesses of this legal obligation and provided an easy-to-complete form that they can use to communicate the information going forward. In addition, the DOL directed employers to proactively provide this informa-

tion to employees who have already lost their jobs due to coronavirus-related impacts.

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the Department of Labor has received and processed 1.4 million completed unemployment benefit applications and distributed over \$3 billion in benefits. In addition, the DOL has launched a "tech surge" to increase its capacity to serve New Yorkers and rolled out a streamlined application that allows individuals to seamlessly apply for either traditional unemployment insurance or pandemic unemployment assistance.

Reardon said, "As you know, our nation has seen an unprecedented increase in unemployment claims, following this public health crisis and every state is struggling to handle this deluge. In fact, before this crisis, the single highest number of unemployment insurance claims filed in one week - nationwide - was 695,000 claims filed in October of 1982. But during this crisis, we have seen weeks with 4.4 million,

5.2 million, 6.6 million, and 6.8 million claims in a week. The volume is simply heartbreaking.

"Here in New York, we are working faster and more aggressively than other states our size to connect New Yorkers with their benefits - and in just six weeks, we have delivered over \$3 billion in benefits to more than 1 million individuals."

She added, "We are also doubling-down on proactive communication to New Yorkers about the quickest way to receive their benefits. That includes reminding individuals that the fastest, most reliable way to receive your funds is by direct deposit into an existing checking account. Any New Yorker who is currently receiving benefits on a KeyBank debit card can switch to direct deposit by going to our website at labor.ny.gov, clicking on unemployment services, clicking on update your personal information, and clicking on update - register for direct deposit. That is the fastest way to get your money."

## IN THE NEWS

### Ransomville Speedway puts 2020 season 'on pause'

All racing events at Ransomville Speedway have been postponed indefinitely due to continued restrictions put in place by New York state to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

The "New York State on PAUSE" executive order, which is in effect until May 15, has closed all nonessential business and canceled nonessential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason. When the "PAUSE" order restrictions for this area are lifted, there could be continued restrictions on gatherings for public events.

A press release said, "Speedway management and track officials will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments to the season schedule once restrictions are lifted. These decisions will be made in the best interest of the health and well-being of our competitors, staff and spectators. Racers and fans should continue to follow the official Ransomville Speedway website and social media channels for the latest updates to the 2020 season.

"Be assured that Ransomville Speedway will be ready to go when the time is right. Thank you for continued patience and understanding."

"The Big R" is a 3/8-mile

DIRTcar-sanctioned facility that is the home of the Summer Nationals. Ransomville also features a 1/16-mile Go-Kart track for action on the "Little R" on Thursday nights.

For more information, visit [www.ransomvillespeedway.com](http://www.ransomvillespeedway.com).

### Margaret Tower James Scholarship deadline extended - and awards doubled

Lewiston-Porter School District families: The deadline for submission of the Margaret Tower James Memorial Scholarship applications is extended to May 15. The award amount is \$1,500. Up to two awards may be made this year.

Applicants must be graduates from Lew-Port's 2020 class. They must enroll, then attend a community college or university located in New York. Field of study should preferably be education.

Detailed criteria and application forms are available from the Lew-Port guidance office or directly from the sponsor: Jack James; 7709 Anderson Court; Manassas; VA 20109 or [jack-james@verizon.net](mailto:jack-james@verizon.net).

## United Way of Greater Niagara providing community agencies with critical funding during COVID-19 crisis

National Grid, GM and Hypertherm provide grants to support COVID-19 relief efforts

United Way of Greater Niagara has continued to ramp up funding to support its 29 partner agencies within Niagara County. UWGN recently received grants from National Grid, General Motors and Hypertherm, which will be used to support COVID-19 response efforts related to child care services in the Niagara Region. These grants, along with funding from the Beeman Foundation, will provide funding to Youth Mentoring Services in Lockport and the Niagara Falls Boys and Girls Club, two organizations in the county currently providing day care services for essential workers.

"We are extremely appreciative to National Grid, GM and Hypertherm, as well as our many other donors, for their generous donations during this time," said Connie Brown, president and CEO of United Way of Greater Niagara. "Their funding will help to support much-needed child care services for our community's essential workers on the frontlines of this crisis."

Additionally, United Way of Greater Niagara has remained vigilant about providing funding to all 29 of its agency providers

to ensure they can continue delivering their essential services and programs throughout Niagara County. United Way's partner agencies offer a wide range of programs to the Niagara Region that address a variety of health, income and education needs, from meal delivery services to mental health counseling.

"It remains a top priority for United Way of Greater Niagara to continue providing funding to all our area agencies that are playing a vital role in helping our community survive the COVID-19 crisis," said Robert Kazeangin, board chair of

United Way of Greater Niagara. "As every layer of our society continues to be impacted by COVID-19 on a day-to-day basis, we are committed to the dozens of human services providers here in Niagara County that rely on our support to help those most in need."

As an essential business, United Way of Greater Niagara (located at 6420 Inducon Drive, Sanborn) remains open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays. To learn more about United Way of Greater Niagara or donate to the organization's COVID-19 initiatives, call 731-4580 or visit [www.uwgn.org](http://www.uwgn.org).

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On behalf of the Ramblin’ Lou Family and our WXRL Family & Staff, we sincerely hope that you and your Family are staying home, safe & well. And, when you're ready to travel, we're here for you. We can't wait to get back "On The Road Again"! Check our website at [wxrl.com](http://wxrl.com) for up-to-date information. Stay well, friends.

<b>July 6-9</b> - Frankenmuth/Mackinac Island/Casino Lunch	<b>July 13</b> - Dolly/Patsy/Loretta - Walters Ranch/Lunch	<b>July 22</b> - Presley/Perkins/Cash/Lewis - Walters Ranch/Lunch	<b>July 27-Oct. 2</b> - Vermont/N. Hampshire/ Maine-Acadia Nat. Park/ Train Ride	<b>Sept. 27-Oct. 2</b> - Vermont/N. Hampshire/ Maine-Acadia Nat. Park/ Train Ride	<b>Oct. 6</b> - Spragues Maple Farm/Casino (\$25 free play & \$5 food)	<b>Oct. 10-14</b> - Greenbrier & Elkins, WV - 2 Trains-Amtrak/	<b>July 6-9</b> - Frankenmuth/Mackinac Island/Casino Lunch	<b>Oct. 12 &amp; 13</b> - Thousand Islands/Boat Cruise/ Ron & Nancy Onesong	<b>Oct. 20-26</b> - Memphis/Graceland/Nashville/ Grand Ole Opry	<b>Nov. 2-4</b> - Amish Lands Holiday - Lancaster, PA "Queen Ester & Deck the Hall"	<b>Nov. 10-12</b> - "Fest. of Light's-Oglebay Park/Wilson Lodge - Wheeling, WV	<b>Nov. 27-Dec. 1</b> - Nashv. Country Christmas/Opryland Hotel Grand Ole Opry
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