



COVID-19 Essential Employee Premium Pay Program

The COVID-19 Essential Employee Premium Pay Program, which was a priority advocacy issue for Mass Senior Care, will distribute \$500 million to lower-wage workers who continued to work during the COVID-19 state of emergency. The program is authorized as part of the state's COVID-19 Recovery law, enacted on December 13, 2021

- **Eligibility criteria** - based on filed 2020 Massachusetts tax returns, individuals will be eligible for a \$500 payment if they meet the program's income requirements.
- **Action Employee Needs to Take to Receive Bonus** - If you are eligible to receive a payment from this program, you will automatically receive the payment from the state in the form of a check that will be mailed to you.
- **Unemployment in 2020** – individuals who claimed unemployment compensation in 2020 **are not eligible** for a check in Round I of the premium pay program.
- **Future rounds of funding** - Further information on future rounds will be available this summer. Please note that income thresholds may be adjusted for 2021, as both the minimum wage and the Federal Poverty Level figures changed from 2020 to 2021.
- **Questions** – Please visit the state's website at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-essential-employee-premium-pay-program#eligibility-parameters>. A call center to answer questions will be available in the coming weeks.