**Homeowner Economic Help During COVID-19**

**TANF:** Indiana has waived the work and job search requirements for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and qualified families may be able to ask for “no-recurrent short-term benefits” (NRST) to help pay other bills. This program is administered by the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration. If you wish to apply online: <https://fssabenefits.in.gov/bp/#/>

**INDIANA UNEMPLOYMENT:** If your hours have been reduced or you have lost your job, apply for unemployment with the Department of Workforce Development immediately. Because of the high volume, applications are taking longer than usual, so the sooner you can get your application in, the better. They have waived the one week waiting period during this time. For more information and to complete or check the status of your online application: <https://unemployment.in.gov>

**ADDITIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT:** The IN Department for Workforce Development announced on April 8th that unemployment claims that have been approved for any benefit do not need to do anything to receive the extra $600 per week approved by Congress in the CARES Act.  It will automatically be added to your account beginning the week of April 20th and will be paid retroactively starting March 29th.

**STUDENT LOANS:** If you have federal student loans, they have automatically been put into forbearance with no interest charged until September 30th. If you are able to continue to make payments, it’s possible to pay down your principle during this time making your interest less come October.

**UTILITIES & TAXES:** Utilities cannot be shut off during this time due to missed payments or past due accounts. Your income taxes are no longer due on April 15th and are instead due on or before July 15th, 2020. There is also no penalty for paying property late during this time. If you do not know if you or your Habitat affiliate is responsible for paying property taxes, please contact them to find out.

**LOOKING FOR A JOB?** Here are some suggestions of statewide institutions that are hiring during this time: Amazon delivery & fulfilment, Kroger, Meijer, Safeway, UPS, Zoom, Slack, Microsoft teams, & regional grocery chains.

**WHAT DO I DO NOW?** Purdue free online classes for alumni and friends in several subjects including but not limited to: accounting business management, & personal finance. Coursera.org has made over 3800 courses accessible for free through September 30th. If you’ve got kids in school, Varsity Tutors is giving away virtual school kits for free including practice tests, flash cards, and live online lessons for K-12 students.

\*Updated as of April 9th, 2020