

Frontline Worker Pay Program FAQs

Lifeworks Specific Questions

1. Am I eligible?

Lifeworks cannot verify your eligibility. If you think you may qualify, apply, answer the questions honestly, and the application process will determine your eligibility.

2. Can you tell me if I worked 120 hours? Can you tell me if my gross income meets the requirements? Can you tell me if I received unemployment insurance benefits payments?

The Frontline Worker Pay Program is designed to have employees verify their own eligibility. Lifeworks encourages all workers who are applying for the Frontline Worker Payment to verify their own personal eligibility by referring to their personal tax records for the information requested by the application. ***The Lifeworks Payroll Department can provide payroll information, if needed. Please call 651-454-2732 and ask for payroll or email payroll@lifeworks.org.***

3. What name, address, phone number, and email address should I use for my employer on the application?

As the fiscal employer agent acting on behalf of the participant you support, Lifeworks will field emails and phone calls from the state, but employees should use the name and address of the participant. If you worked for multiple participants during this time period, you will need to fill out employer fields for each participant.

Employer name: Lifeworks Services, Inc. - Agent for [Participant's Name]

Employer address: [Use Participant Address]

Employer phone number: 651-454-2732

Employer email address: gethired@lifeworks.org

4. How will Lifeworks support me in applying for the Frontline Worker Pay?

As the fiscal employer agent acting on behalf of the participant you support, Lifeworks is required to notify employees of the application and distribute the notification from the State. Applying for and receiving the payment is the responsibility of each employee.

5. I am an employee who lived and worked with an individual such as a paid parent or sibling. Do I qualify for the payment?

Lifeworks encourages all employees who think they may qualify, to review the eligibility requirements, apply, answer the questions honestly, and let the application process determine your eligibility.

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible?

To be eligible for Frontline Worker Pay, an applicant must:

- have been employed at least 120 hours in Minnesota in one or more frontline sectors between March 15, 2020, and June 30, 2021;
- for at least 120 hours worked during this time period the applicant –
 - was not able to telework or work remotely due to the nature of the individual's work and
 - worked in close proximity to people outside of the individual's household;
- meet the income requirements; and
- have not received an unemployment insurance benefit payment for more than 20 weeks for the weeks between March 15, 2020, and June 26, 2021.
 - How do I know if I received more than 20 weeks of unemployment?
 - You can access your unemployment insurance benefit history by following the instructions located on the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance's ["Print payment history" webpage](#).

2. What are the identified frontline sectors?

The legislation identifies the following sectors in the definition of "frontline sector":

1. building services, including maintenance, janitorial and security;
2. child care;
3. courts and corrections;
4. emergency responders;
5. food service, including production, processing, preparation, sale and delivery;
6. ground and air transportation services;
7. health care;
8. long-term care and home care;
9. manufacturing;
10. public health, social service and regulatory service;
11. public transit;
12. retail, including sales, fulfillment, distribution and delivery;
13. schools, including charter schools, state schools and higher education;
14. temporary shelters and hotels; and
15. vocational rehabilitation.

3. What are the income limits included in the eligibility criteria?

To qualify for a payment, an individual's adjusted gross income*, must be less than the following amounts for at least one of the 2020 or 2021 tax years:

- a. for an individual who was employed in an occupation with direct COVID-19 patient care responsibilities, \$350,000 for a married taxpayer filing a joint return and \$175,000 for all other filers; or
- b. for all other individuals, \$185,000 for a married taxpayer filing a joint return and \$85,000 for all other filers.

**More about adjusted gross income: irs.gov/e-file-providers/definition-of-adjusted-gross-income.*

4. To qualify for the higher adjusted gross income threshold, an individual must have had direct COVID-19 patient care responsibilities. What does “direct COVID-19 patient care responsibilities” mean?

An employee had direct COVID-19 patient care responsibilities if they, as part of their assigned job duties, were responsible for providing direct care to a patient, resident or individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19.

5. What does it mean to work “in close proximity to individuals outside of the individual’s household”?

“Close proximity to individuals outside of the individual’s household” means within six feet of individuals with whom the applicant does not live.

6. Does a person who voluntarily chose to work at the workplace rather than telework meet the eligibility criteria of “not able to telework”?

No, to meet this eligibility criteria, the applicant must not have had an option to perform work remotely or in telework status.

7. Can family members apply on behalf of otherwise eligible workers who have died?

No, the legislation requires that the individual must apply to the commissioner of labor and industry and, as part of the application, must certify to the commissioner that they meet the eligibility requirements.

8. What are some examples of industries that were not included in the identified “frontline sectors” in the Frontline Worker Pay law?

Some examples of industries not included in the definition of “frontline sectors” include the professional, scientific, and technical services industry, the information services industry, the finance and insurance industry, the utilities industry, the construction industry and the arts, entertainment and recreation industries.

9. Does work as an independent contractor or sole proprietor qualify for Frontline Worker Pay?

No, the eligibility criteria include the requirement that the worker be “employed.” Independent contractors and sole proprietors are not employees.

10. What does it mean to be “employed for at least 120 hours”?

The eligibility criteria requires that the applicant be an employee in an employer-employee relationship in a frontline sector for at least 120 hours during the identified time period.

11. Are volunteers eligible for frontline worker pay?

No, the eligibility criteria include the requirement that the worker be “employed.” A volunteer is someone who voluntarily donates work and who receives no monetary compensation for the donated work.

12. Are temporary employees eligible for frontline worker pay?

Yes, a temporary worker is eligible if the individual is employed in one of the identified frontline sectors and meets the eligibility criteria set forth in the legislation.

13. Do you have to be a resident of Minnesota to be eligible for frontline worker pay?

No, Minnesota residency is not one of the eligibility criteria set forth in the legislation. However, to be eligible, the applicant must have been employed for at least 120 hours within Minnesota and the other eligibility criteria must be met.

Applications, appeals

14. Where do I apply?

During the application period, eligible frontline workers can apply at frontlinepay.mn.gov. In accordance with the legislation, the application will be open for 45 calendar days.

15. What is the application deadline? Are there any other deadlines I need to know?

The application will remain open for 45 calendar days. The anticipated application period will be open from Wednesday, June 8, through Friday, July 22, 2022. These dates are subject to change. If an application is denied, applicants have 15 days from notice of the denial to appeal the denial. All denials will be communicated by email correspondence.

16. Will I receive my payment quicker if I apply early in the application window?

No, all applications will be processed at the same time and payments will not be made to any eligible frontline workers until after all applications are processed and the appeals period is over.

17. What will I need to know when I apply?

The applicant should be prepared to certify that they meet all eligibility requirements. The application will request the following information: name, address, phone number, email address, date of birth, Social Security number or Individual Tax Identification Number, employer name, employer address, employer phone number, employer email address, dates of relevant employment and job title.

The application will use knowledge-based authentication (KBA) to prove the applicant’s identity. The KBA process will require basic information factors, such as name, address and date of birth, which will be used to compile knowledge questions. If KBA questions cannot be generated, the applicant will be asked to verify their identification by scanning an image of an eligible identifying document: passport, I.D. card, driver’s license or residence permit. A list of eligible identifying documents can be found here: [List of supported documents – Veriff](#).

The applicant will also be required to choose a form of payment in the event they are deemed eligible for

Frontline Worker Pay. The applicant can choose between a direct deposit via an ACH transfer or a prepaid debit card. If the applicant prefers an ACH transfer, they will need to provide their bank routing number and account number.

18. Is my employer required to do anything for me to be deemed eligible for Frontline Worker Pay?

No, an employer is not required to provide documentation or other verification for an application to be processed. The application will require the worker to certify that they meet all eligibility requirements and provide necessary information for verification. The applicant will also be asked to provide authorization for the state to reach out to their current or former employer for purposes of eligibility verification if that is deemed necessary during application review.

19. What if my application is not approved?

If you are notified that your application has been denied, you have the right to appeal the decision within 15 days. To appeal you must follow the instructions in the notification of the denial sent to your email address and include the information necessary to address the eligibility requirements and dispute the reason for denial. The commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry's decision on an appeal is final.

20. How will the applications be verified? How will paying fraudulent claims be avoided?

Applications and eligibility criteria will be verified using information submitted during the application process and during verification processes conducted by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Minnesota Department of Revenue.

Payments

21. When will I get paid and how much will I receive?

After all the applications have been received and the appeals period has ended, money dedicated to Frontline Worker Pay will be evenly divided among all eligible frontline workers whose application was approved. The payments cannot exceed \$1,500. Payments are expected in early fall depending on the time necessary for processing applications, appeals and payments.

22. Will I have to pay taxes on my bonus?

For Minnesota purposes, the frontline worker payment will not be taxable. The Department of Revenue expects the income to be subtracted from federal adjusted gross income on the 2022 Schedule M1M, Income Additions and Subtractions. For federal purposes, the payment is included in federal adjusted gross income.

23. Will frontline worker payments be considered income for determination of public assistance programs?

Frontline worker payments will not be considered income, assets or personal property for purposes of

determining eligibility or recertifying eligibility for:

- child care assistance programs under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B;
- general assistance, Minnesota supplemental aid and food support under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256D;
- housing support under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256I;
- Minnesota family investment program and diversionary work program under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256J; and
- economic assistance programs under Minnesota Statutes chapter 256P.

24. Is the frontline worker payment included in income for Minnesota’s property tax refund or K-12 Education Credit?

No, the frontline worker payment is not included in income for either the Minnesota property tax refund or K-12 Education Credit.

More information, getting help

25. Where can I get complete information?

Complete information is available on the Frontline Worker Pay website at frontlinepay.mn.gov.

26. Who is administering the Frontline Worker Pay program?

The Frontline Worker Pay program is being jointly administered by the Minnesota departments of Employment and Economic Development, Labor and Industry, and Revenue.

27. Where can I get questions answered by a human?

During the application period, an applicant support center will be available to assist applicants in multiple languages.

28. Who decided which workers should get this money?

The Minnesota Legislature drafted and passed frontline worker payment legislation on April 29, 2022, and Gov. Tim Walz signed the bill that same day.

29. Is there assistance for workers who speak a language other than English?

Yes, information is available on the Frontline Worker Pay website at frontlinepay.mn.gov in multiple languages or by contacting the applicant support center after the application is available.

30. How do I know if I received more than 20 weeks of unemployment?

You can access your unemployment insurance benefit history by following the instructions located on the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance’s [“Print payment history” webpage](#).

31. How can I check what my adjusted gross income was for tax years 2020 and 2021?

You can find your adjusted gross income for tax year 2020 or 2021 by looking at your 2020 or 2021 Minnesota tax filing. Your adjusted gross income is located on line 1 of your form M1.

