

Struggling to Get Unemployment Benefits? Here's What You Need to Know.

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) has been ordered to end its unemployment insurance backlog.

On May 25, 2021, Judge Henry Hudson of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia ordered the VEC to end the backlog of unpaid unemployment insurance claims and identify and pay Virginians whose benefits were improperly terminated while their cases awaited adjudication. **The VEC now has until Labor Day to resolve the entire backlog.**

What does this mean for me?

Hundreds of thousands of Virginians should get relief within the next few months. For example, for those waiting for deputy adjudications, the VEC has been ordered to issue at least 10,000 adjudications per week by July 1, and at least 20,000 per week by August 1. The VEC has also been ordered to effectively eliminate the backlog of claims waiting for deputy adjudication by Labor Day.

Need help with other VEC issues?

Call **1-866-LEGLAID (1-866-534-5243)** to reach your local legal aid office. VPLC is currently unable to provide individual representation or assistance.

Learn more about the VEC lawsuit here: justice4all.org/ui/

The link also provides the opportunity to share your story with us as we continue to push for change.

Other Sources of Help While Waiting for Unemployment Benefits

Food Assistance

Call our **SNAP Helpline: (866) 753-7627**.

Find out if you may be eligible for SNAP (commonly known as “food stamps”) and see an estimate of benefits you could receive: vplc.org/snapcalculator/.

Health Insurance

Call our **ENROLL Virginia! Health Insurance Helpline: 888-392-5132**.

Starting July 1, 2021, consumers who are approved to receive unemployment compensation for any week beginning in 2021 may be able to find lower cost plans and save money on out-of-pocket expenses. [Learn more here.](#)

Utilities

Call our **Utility Helpline: 804-313-9363**.

Eviction

Facing eviction because you cannot pay your rent?

- Call our **Eviction Legal Helpline: 833-NOEVICT (833-663-8428)**.
- View our quick guide: [I Need Help with Rent NOW!](#)
- View our comprehensive guide on staying housed during COVID-19: housing.vplc.org/

Paying Your Mortgage

Get free help from a [certified housing counselor](#).