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## Benefit available for Eligible and Qualified SASMI Members affected by the COVID-19 virus

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[Link to Application](#)  
You must login to apply

SASMI will provide all eligible and qualified participants unable to work during any part of the remaining 2020A Stabilization Period due to exposure to COVID-19, displaced from employment as a result of COVID-19, or who have voluntarily removed themselves from the workforce in response to COVID-19 with a special emergency benefit. The details of the benefit and application forms can be found on our website at [www.sasmi.org](http://www.sasmi.org). Generally,

The benefit will be equal to one week of wages as defined in their CBA (usually forty (40) hours) of journeypersons pay, or derivative thereof, in any month (March, April, May and June) in which a member as a direct effect of COVID-19 is displaced, quarantined or voluntarily removed from the workforce and does not receive wages from their employer for at least one week.

This payment(s) will not affect your qualification or eligibility for unemployment or underemployment benefits to which you may be entitled to for the 2020 A-Period and will not be counted against those benefits. The benefit, however, will count as a benefit received in determining, in the future, whether you have met the 200% rule and in determining severance and retiree HCRA benefits.

Later this week members will be able to make application via our website ([www.sasmi.org](http://www.sasmi.org)). Once there, use the link labeled "COVID-19". All questions must be answered in order to be considered for this benefit. Once submitted, SASMI will validate your qualifications for this benefit including, as appropriate, contacting your Local Union Representative or Employer.

Due to staffs limited office availability during this time and to expedite payment we will temporarily only be able to process ACH payments to a member's bank. Benefits that need to be paid by check may be delayed.

**\*The Trustees will determine if the benefit will be repeated in the 2020B Stabilization period based on the course of the pandemic and its impact on the industry.**

- The Employee is eligible for this benefit if they are eligible for benefits under Article II and have not lost eligibility under Article II and does not terminate participation nor lose qualification for Benefits under Article X at any time during such Stabilization Period or before receipt of payment. The 18-month rule and four (4) Stabilization Period Rules in Article II section 7 apply to this benefit.
- An Employee who (a) is experiencing possible symptoms of COVID-19; (b) was exposed to someone who is possibly infected with COVID-19; or (c) resides with a family member who was exposed to someone who is possibly infected with COVID-19.
- An Employee who is unable to work because their employer has told them not to report to work due to a COVID-19 related situation or who is prevented from going to work by governmental action, such as a Shelter at Home Order. Displacement does not mean persons who are currently seeking employment or receiving compensation from an employer through good will or formal governmental legislation.
- An employee who has made the decision to temporarily remove themselves from the worksite due to concerns about COVID-19 or because of obligations related to the closing of schools and daycares. **Employees who have voluntarily removed themselves from the workforce the benefit will be paid if they have not received benefits above 100% of contributions.**

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# COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

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## Who is eligible?

The Employee is eligible for this benefit if they are eligible for benefits under Article II and have not lost eligibility under Article II and does not terminate participation nor lose qualification for Benefits under Article X at any time during such Stabilization Period or before receipt of payment. The 18-month rule and four (4) Stabilization Period Rules in Article II section 7 apply to this benefit.

## How do I apply?

Application can ONLY be made online. If you have not already done so, you will have to register for access to the SASMI Member Portal. Once logged in you will find a link to the application. [www.sasmi.org](http://www.sasmi.org)

## Will I receive a benefit if I apply?

Applicant information will require verbal confirmation from both your Local Union and Employer. Applications will only be approved based on these verifications.

## My employer paid me even though I was not working. Can I still receive this benefit?

Maybe. To be eligible you must have NOT been compensated by an Employer for a period of 40 consecutive hours in any one(1) month (March, April, May and June).

**For Example:** If you are displaced due to COVID-19 on March 15 and your Employer compensates you for two (2) weeks (March 15-30) you would NOT be eligible. If the employer does not compensate you in April, and you miss 40 hours of compensation in the month of April, you would be eligible.

## Why do I need to apply online?

The SASMI administrative office as well as some Local Union offices are partially shut down. Access to some daily functions such as mail is not in all cases fully available.

## Is the Portal and Application Secure?

Yes. The application meets federally regulated HIPAA qualifications.

## Why do I have to supply banking information?

This is due to our inability to print physical checks until at least mid-April 2020. This process will expedite your payment and will probably become a standard for all benefits in the near future.

## Will receiving this benefit change my ability to receive other benefits?

In most cases the answer is no however, this benefit will be used to calculate the provisions under the 200% rule.

**Unemployment:** No. You will still be eligible to receive UN/Underemployment Benefits under the current plan rules in the 2020-A Period. Application for those benefits will be accepted starting August 1, 2020

**Welfare:** No. Local Health Plans will still request payment on your behalf should you require continued coverage.

**Severance:** This is an Active Benefit and like any other Active Plan Benefit, this benefit will reduce your future Severance amount or, if you do not have a Severance Benefit

**HCRA:** This is an Active Benefit and like any other Active Plan Benefit, this will reduce your future Retiree HCRA Benefit amount.

## Can I apply for this benefit more than once?

Yes. The Plan will allow for application of this benefit in March, April May and June 2020. \*Individual application will have to be made for each moth.

## Are my answers confidential and private?

Yes. SASMI will not release specifics on your personal health or responses give on the application. We will however have to identify that you did in fact apply because your approval will be based on verbal confirmation from your Local Union and or Employer.

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