

Dear House Interim Committee Members,

Please know that as an out of work self-employed worker, tens of thousands of us, perhaps hundreds of thousands, still have been unable to access the Federal funds allocated to us on March 27th, when the CARES Act was passed.

There is still no available phone number to reach the Oregon Employment Dept regarding Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. This was promised more than a week ago in a hearing. Where is it?

We were also promised to be contacted within a week of that hearing. Myself and countless others (communicating in a social media group together) have received no calls or messages. Where is our promised communication?

Personally, I have received a single week of minimum payment (less than I qualify for), while filing for 9 weeks and being approved for PUA. It has been over two months. Why is the state of Oregon not dispensing funds to those of us who have been approved to receive them? If they know I qualify, why can't I receive at least the minimum until they are able to recalculate my actual allotment? Paying nothing at all as the weeks continue to go by is unacceptable. It is our money, sent to help us.

The incredibly complicated and ever-changing process of applying, being required to send weekly forms that mysteriously go blank or change without any notice, rules constantly changing, misinformation and conflicting information being given, and literally receiving letters from the Oregon Employment Dept instructing us to call 000-000-0000 with our questions, is unacceptable and incredibly stress-inducing, causing a lot of panic, fear, and uncertainty in a situation that was intended to be helpful and supportive.

Please help us get the support allocated to us by the Federal government. Many of us have already lost or are in danger of losing our businesses permanently, as we still have bills to pay and business expenses to keep up with, regardless of the lack of work.

Sincerely,

Sarah Jurgensen