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Please do not reply to this email. You can reach my office by emailing senatorlindseywilliams@pasenate.com.

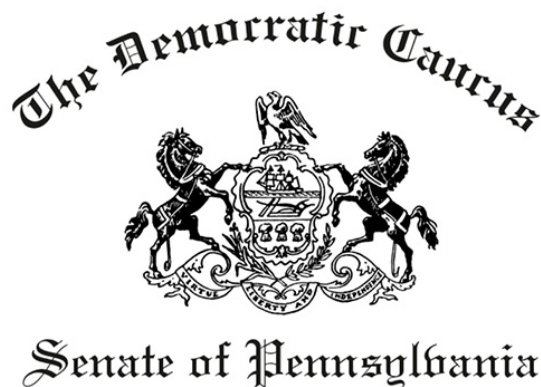
State Senator **LINDSEY M. WILLIAMS** Your District 38 Update



Hazard Grant Pay Program Update

I was disappointed that the recent Hazard Grant Pay program didn't award any funding to any EMS agencies. In the course of their daily duties, our EMS workers are at significant risk of exposure to COVID-19 through one-on-one contact with the individuals who they provide lifesaving care to. They are the very definition of frontline workers.

My @PASenateDem colleagues and I sent a [letter](#) to @GovernorWolf urging him to appropriate additional CARES Act funding to the Hazard Pay Grants Program and to make a portion of that money available to EMS frontline workers. We need to provide support to these workers who provide such critical services to our entire community.



August 24, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Wolf:

We write to urge you to join us in our push for additional funding for Hazard Pay Grants for frontline workers.

As you are aware, our caucus laid out a proposal to spend the Commonwealth's CARES Act funding in April. Our proposal included what was most important to our caucus: helping our frontline workers, small businesses and the healthcare industry. We were pleased that our efforts paid off and that many of our priorities were included in the May appropriation of some of the CARES Act funding.

Unfortunately, the needs far outpaced the funding that were made available. A prime example, the more than \$800 million in requests made for the \$50 million available for hazard pay grants to frontline workers. We understand the need to prioritize funding to those frontline workers who are most at risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Our caucus was disheartened to see that the awardee list did not include any EMS workers. In the course of their daily duties they cannot avoid direct, one-on-one contact with those individuals they are providing lifesaving care to. It is our belief that these workers are the very definition of frontline workers.

As we move into the fall legislative session and the deadline to spend CARES Act funding quickly approaches, we believe that we should appropriate additional funding for Hazard Pay Grants and that a portion of that money should be made available to EMS frontline workers.

We know hazard pay is as important to you as it is to members of our caucus. Our caucus has forcefully pushed the United States Senate to pass the Heroes Act which includes \$190 billion for hazard pay.

While we await additional resources from the Federal Government, we believe we should appropriate additional CARES Act funding for the Commonwealth's Hazard Pay Grant Program.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Lindsey Williams
38th Senatorial District

Upcoming Events



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 @ 6PM

**Senator Lindsey M. Williams
invites you to a**



Clean Slate & Expungement Virtual Clinic

Don't forget to join us on Wednesday August 26 at 6pm for a Clean Slate & Expungement Virtual Town Hall!

Introductory remarks from Senator Lindsey Williams, presentation by Barbara Griffin, Esq., Director of the Pro Bono Center of the Allegheny County Bar Foundation and Associate Professor, Duquesne University School of Law

Ms. Griffin will discuss clearing criminal records in Pennsylvania and free legal help that is available to people with low incomes. Following the presentation, constituents may contact Duquesne University School of Law to determine if they're eligible.

You must register in advance for this event.

Register for Clean Slate & Expungement Virtual Town Hall

Request Mail-In Ballot

You can request a no-excuse ballot which was made available due to bipartisan legislation. You can request a ballot online at [PA Voter Services](#). If you need a paper application or you cannot complete one online, please contact our office at 412-364-0469 and we will send you one.



Pennsylvania COVID-19 Resources

A white speech bubble icon with an exclamation mark and three dots inside, set against a dark blue background.

**IT'S OKAY TO
ASK FOR HELP**

If you or someone you know
is experiencing a **mental health
crisis**, contact the crisis text
line by **texting PA to 741-741**.

A small white icon of the Pennsylvania state outline with a medical symbol (a staff with a snake) inside, located in the bottom right corner of the graphic.

Find [food assistance resources near you](#).

[Mental health and substance use disorder help](#) is available.

If you are unable to work due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for [unemployment benefits](#).

Learn more about COVID-19 testing and [find a testing center](#).

See the latest [COVID-19 guidance and resources](#) for Pennsylvanians.

Find COVID-19 [updates for Pennsylvania drivers](#)

Unemployment Compensation Benefit Updates

The Department of Labor & Industry has held town halls weekly to update and inform residents about Unemployment Compensation. You can watch previous weeks at

<https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/Media/Pages/townhall.aspx>

Pennsylvania Approved for Extra \$300 Per Week to Eligible Unemployed Workers



The Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Jerry Oleksiak announced on August 25, 2020 that Pennsylvania will get nearly \$1.5 billion to provide an extra \$300 per week to eligible unemployed workers through the temporary federal Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Payments will be made to eligible claimants retroactively from August 1, 2020. The grant will provide the extra \$300 weekly payment until the FEMA funding is exhausted, the federal government enacts a new law, or extends the recently ended Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

program. LWA will run for a minimum of three weeks and will end no later than December 27, 2020. You can read the complete press release [here](#).

You can also go to file for Unemployment benefits [here](#).

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

GROUPS WHO SHOULD NOT FILE FOR PUA

PUA is only for individuals who are unemployed due to COVID-19 reasons and does not cover individuals without an attachment to the labor market or those who are unemployed for non-COVID-19 reasons. This benefit is only for individuals who would otherwise be working but are unable to because of the current pandemic. The following are some of the groups who should NOT file for PUA.

RETIRED

with no job and no job offer



INDIVIDUALS

who were not working at all or did not have a job offer



INMATES



CHILDREN

who were not working in actual employment



INDIVIDUALS

being paid to file other people's PUA application.



COLLEGE STUDENTS

with no job and no job offer



This is illegal;
report these
individuals to
the authorities.



INDIVIDUALS

on Social Security
Disability with
no work
attachment



CLAIMANTS

who work as an
employee and
should file UC



INDIVIDUALS living in a halfway
house on lock-down



LANDLORDS



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

WWW.UC.PA.GOV

**Knowingly making false statements or omitting material facts to obtain PUA benefits to which you are not entitled will result in a disqualification and repayment of all overpaid PUA and corresponding FPUC benefits. You may also be subject to criminal prosecution.*

Backpack Lending Program

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has announced the launch of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Backpack Lending Program. This program allows you to enjoy your time in the parks by reserving a themed backpack. You can choose between one of the following



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**

backpack themes:

- **The Meadow Backpack** for learning about insects, spiders and butterflies and a book about common meadow creatures;
- **The Forest Backpack**, featuring a 'Bird Identifier' for identifying and making bird calls;
- **The Stream Backpack** with tools, such as a sieve and aquaviewer, for discovering what lives in the local pond or creek; and
- **The Health Backpack** with hiking poles, a hammock and a 'FitBit' to help visitors measure their workouts.

Visit [Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy](#) for more information or [click here](#) to reserve a backpack. You must submit a reservation by 3:00 P.M. on the Friday before your reservation date, then pick-up the backpack on the designated Saturday or Sunday at the open-air gatehouse at the Frick Environmental Center.

Have fun on your next park adventure!

Good Happenings in the 38th District



Good happenings in the 38th District. [Read](#) about the amazing Free Store and the work done by Sonya Dembowski, Nicole Docherty & a team of volunteers in East Deer & West Deer to open the new location at 9 Creighton Russellton Road. To donate or learn more about their

fundraiser, contact Ms. Dembowski directly at 412-736-6621.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have by phone at 412-364-0469 or by email at SenatorLindseyWilliams@pasenate.com. My staff will return your call/email within 24 hours (Monday-Friday).



Senator Lindsey Williams

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