

# April 16, 2020 Post-Webinar Q&A:

## Employer-Focused Questions for Texas Workforce Commission

---

---

Thank you to Shay Everrit and Dale Robertson for taking the time to address the questions that were not answered on the April 16 webinar due to time constraints.

---

---

### **QUESTIONS ANSWERED (TYPED) LIVE DURING TWC WEBINAR**

- 1) I didn't receive a notice of application for unemployment benefits for all of my employees. Will the ones I didn't receive one for be denied? I submitted a notice of application for unemployment benefits with the wrong TWC number on it. How do I get in contact with someone to correct that error?  
**Answer:** Please contact our UI directly at 800-939-6631. If unable to get through send an e-mail to [smallbizc19@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:smallbizc19@twc.state.tx.us).
- 2) What are you doing to help with the In-home childcare provider I don't see any programs for us just mainly for the centers?  
**Answer:** If you are providing child care to children in the subsidy program, you can contact your local workforce board to see what's available to you: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/partners/workforce-development-boards-websites>. Registered and licensed in-home providers serving children in the subsidy program are eligible for most assistance opportunities. Otherwise, you might be eligible for unemployment and other benefits. Your local board can help with that, as well.
- 3) Appreciate all the efforts for employers with less than 500 employees. Any thoughts on assisting employers with more than 500 employees? Main Street programs seem slow and less responsive. Any insights? Helpful direction?  
**Answer:** The TWC programs I discussed are also available for large employers. I also understand that SBA programs may also apply to employers of 500 or more employees, depending on the industry they are in. Please see the SBA site for information about how employers with more than 500 employees may qualify.
- 4) Do pre-schools run by churches qualify for these same benefits?  
**Answer:** It depends on which benefit you are referencing. Some are only for child care providers in the child care subsidy program. For more information, visit: <https://frontlinechildcare.texas.gov/>. Or you may contact your local workforce board: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/partners/workforce-development-boards-websites>.

- 5) As a childcare provider, how can I get my center to the list of available centers for essential employees? How does that work with parents getting that assistance from the TWC? Do we need to register with the TWC?  
**Answer:** Just log-in here and provide the available seats you have and it will show up on the parent search website: <https://childcare.bowtiebi.com/frontlinechildcareform>. If you want to serve parents who are getting assistance from TWC, then you need to sign a provider agreement with your local board. Find and contact your local board here: <https://www.twc.texas.gov/partners/workforce-development-boards-websites>.
- 6) Did I hear right? There be a 25% increase in childcare fees rate?  
**Answer:** For child care providers who remain open, there will be a 25% increase in reimbursement rate for all active subsidy referrals. Guidance on that is forthcoming.
- 7) For parents with child enrolled at childcare center but not attending due to shelter in place, but paying tuition as part of program requirement to hold their spot. Is there any grant or benefits parent can get from gov?  
**Answer:** As a private business, the child care program is allowed to make those decisions about charging tuition to hold that spot. There is not a grant program from TWC for that purpose.
- 8) Are there resources specifically for childcare centers that forced to close or opportunities to partner with TWC?  
**Answer:** If you were providing care to children in the child care subsidy program, then you have been continuing to receive payment even if you are closed. If you are looking for other supports as a small business that Dale Robertson is covering, I encourage you to contact your local workforce board. <https://www.twc.texas.gov/partners/workforce-development-boards-websites>.
- 9) Question about child care availability. Is the state considering loosening child care requirements for organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs and other groups that offer after school programs to meet the need of first responders?  
**Answer:** There have been some new changes that allow this. If you are wanting to open as an emergency child care center, email [MSC@hsc.state.tx.us](mailto:MSC@hsc.state.tx.us).

---

### **QUESTIONS ANSWERED LIVE DURING TWC WEBINAR**

- 10) If we do the workshare program where some of our essential employees are kept on staff at 10- 40% reduced work hours, will they be eligible to only 10- 40% of their weekly max benefit or \$521, whichever is higher? OR if 40% of their salary is still less than the \$521, could they be eligible up to 40% of their salary just not to exceed \$521? (or is it really only a max of 40% of the \$521?).
- 11) Are workshare employees eligible to receive both up to the 40% unemployment benefit PLUS the \$600 stimulus? Or is the \$600 stimulus only available to employees who are laid-off or furloughed?
- 12) Question in regard to independent contractors applying for unemployment. Are these workers required to put in their last employer? Will the listed employer be required to pay additional unemployment taxes at a later time for the 1099s?

- 13) I am an independent contractor that moved to TX in June 2019. TWC requires me to contact them by phone to continue filing for UI, so no help there yet. I applied for PPP loan but unknown status. No help there yet. I owe on 2019 taxes and recently moved so I have to wait for a paper check from the IRS. No help there, either. Bottom line: No income and no help. What's being done for people in my situation?
- 14) On average, how long is it taking for first checks to go out to people who are filing for unemployment for the first time at this point?
- 15) If an employee's salary is reduced (but not their hours), will Shared Work supplement?
- 16) If a business is closed and was not able to get a PPP loan, can the owner / partner of the business apply for unemployment? Same question for a sole proprietor business. Would you be able to direct us to a place on the TWC website that discusses this?
- 17) I am a small restaurant that has had to close temporarily. In the last 7 years, I have had 1 small unemployment claim thereby affording me the lowest UI rate possible. With my closing I've now had about 15 legitimate claims that are going to significantly raise my payroll UI rates. Is there anything being done or is there anything I can do to minimize my exposure next year as far as my UI rates?
- 18) I work for a corporation that have child care centers, both are closed. I draw 1/2 my salary from one and 1/2 from the other can I file on both places?
- 19) My question is from parent view. Can they get any relief because their agreeing to pay is supporting childcare business?
- 20) In child care, we have had to reduce the hours for the workers ex. 8 hrs. to 6 hrs., can they claim to offset the loss?
- 21) Does Hair Salons fall under the Small business? And can they qualify for the SSB program?
- 22) I had an employee quit because they are scared to come to work. can they file for UE and quit like that?
- 23) Does any of these programs affect the PPP loan taken by the employer and loan forgiveness?
- 24) Does the 40% work share reduction qualify on the PPP forgiveness?
- 25) Do church employees qualify for the SSB program?
- 26) Did I hear something about a 25% increase for subsidized children? If so, is it for essential worker children only?
- 27) Do non-profit employees (church employees) qualify for these unemployment benefits since we don't qualify under normal circumstances?

28) Due to COVID-19 we are receiving no chargeback to the company. Will these "no chargebacks" affect our tax rates in 2021?

29) What types of training in the small business training programs?

30) Is K1 income considered wages? if not, why not since many business owners only take K1 as their compensation. Can owners with multiple locations with all separate EIN #'s put themselves on payroll at each company for the maximum amount? The K1 income was a question relating to PPP forgiveness.