



THE GOVERNMENT UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR COVID-19 (GOV-UEA - TOURISM PACKAGE)



INFORMATION SHEET

The Government of The Bahamas, in collaboration with the National Insurance Board (NIB), is responding to bring financial support to self-employed Bahamians in the tourism sector whose income sources have been disrupted by COVID-19.

While the programme will be administered by the National Insurance Board, it is outside of the NIB package of benefits; it is not an earned entitlement; does not require the satisfying of National Insurance contribution conditions; and does not require Department of Labour involvement.

Who Qualifies for the **COVID-19-Related** Unemployment Assistance (GOV-UEA)?

- ✓ Self-employed Bahamians, working directly in the tourism industry who are not employed in any other capacity and without any other streams of income from employment.
- ✓ Persons claiming the assistance must prove that they are self-employed in the tourism sector by presenting at least one of the following supporting documents wherever relevant and/or applicable:
 - ✓ business license;
 - ✓ letter from hotel allowing you to work from their property;
 - ✓ relevant association membership letter;
 - ✓ straw market permit;
 - ✓ business receipts which show purchases related to your business; or
 - ✓ any other documentation which can show that you work in the tourism sector as a self-employed person.

Who Does Not Qualify for **COVID-19-Related** Unemployment Assistance?

- ✓ Employed persons (NIB's Unemployment Benefit may apply);
- ✓ Entrepreneurs and business owners in the tourism sector (i.e. persons who employ other persons). These persons will be captured under other Government programmes;
- ✓ Persons who stopped work prior to the onset of the COVID-19 crisis in The Bahamas (March 13, 2020).

What options are in place for self-employed persons who have not paid NIB

- ✓ This is not an NIB benefit and, therefore, there are no (N.I.) Contribution conditions to satisfy.

Do I have to register with NIB?

- ✓ Yes. Self-employed persons must be currently registered with NIB;
- ✓ If you are not registered, you will be registered at the time of the application.

How much money will I receive?

- ✓ \$200 per week for a maximum of 8 weeks (as long as you remain unemployed).

How will the payments be issued?

- ✓ Direct payment to bank accounts (preferred method);
- ✓ Cheques (highly discouraged).
(NIB is striving to have this payment made in as short a time as possible. Processing time will vary depending on the completeness of the application and supporting documents.)

All applicants must sign a Declaration Statement indicating the following:

- ✓ Applicants are not being paid by an employer at the time of application.
- ✓ Applicants must inform NIB if there are any changes in their circumstances which may affect their entitlement to payment.
- ✓ Acknowledge that it is an offence to provide false information or to withhold information to qualify for this payment.

How do I submit my application?

- ✓ Email the scanned application and supporting documents to govuea@nib-bahamas.com. You can take a photo of each page and documents and email also. (Preferred method)
- ✓ At the drop-off boxes at all NIB locations

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