



“Providing social insurance protection you can depend on”

TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE BENEFIT

The Unemployment Assistance Benefit by the TCI National Insurance Board makes provision for a short-term benefit to insured persons who became unemployed, due to the economic fallout resulting from the COVID-19 (Coronavirus Pandemic), as a means of assistance to defray their monthly expenses.

For this purpose, a person shall be treated as unemployed if -

- Unemployment is as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Your total period of unemployment amount to at least two (2) weeks; AND
- You are capable and available for work but not able to acquire same.

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When computing a period of continuous unemployment for the purpose this benefit -

Public holidays shall be included and Sundays excluded.

### **DURATION OF BENEFIT**

The Unemployment Assistance Benefit shall be paid for eight (8) weeks, either periodically or as a lump-sum until the allocated funds are exhausted.

## **QUALIFYING FOR THE BENEFIT**

You MUST be under the age of 65 years old before the 1st April 2020. If you attain the age of 65 on or after 1st April 2020 or whilst you are in receipt of the benefit, your benefit payment will be discontinued commencing the date of your sixty-fifth (65) birthday.

You MUST be insured with the TCI National Insurance Board.

You MUST be a Turks & Caicos Islander in accordance with section 2 of the Turks and Caicos Islander Status Ordinance; or

You MUST be the holder of a Turks and Caicos Islands Permanent Residence Certificate section 2 (1) of the Immigration Ordinance

You MUST be officially laid off or terminated specifically due to COVID-19.

You MUST be resident in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Exception is given to persons absent for a specific purpose, or overseas receiving medical treatment, which would have commenced prior to leaving the island. Consideration will be given based on the circumstance and evidence provided.

You are only eligible for the benefit if you are not otherwise eligible for COVID-19 publicly funded initiatives.

You are not eligible to receive the benefit if you are in receipt of sickness benefit, injury benefit, maternity benefit, retirement benefit or invalidity benefit from the National Insurance Board.

If you are in receipt of disablement pension, or refund of medical expenses, you are eligible to apply.

# **CONTRIBUTION QUALIFYING CONDITIONS**

You must have been insured with the NIB immediately prior to 1st April 2020 in addition to having two hundred and fifty contributions weeks prior to becoming unemployed. If you do not have all two hundred and fifty contributions (250) paid into the system immediately prior to 1st April 2020, you may otherwise qualify as follows:

## ***As a Turks and Caicos Islander -***

You would be required to have paid not less than fifty contributions; and may be credited up to a maximum of two hundred credited contributions.

## ***As a Permanent Resident -***

You would be required to have paid not less than one hundred and fifty (150) contributions and may be credited up to a maximum of one hundred (100) credited contributions.

## ***In all other cases -***

You are required to have paid two hundred and fifty (250) contributions into the National Insurance Board.

# **RATE OF BENEFIT**

The Unemployment Assistance Benefit shall be paid at 50% of the average weekly insurable earnings of the insured person who is entitled. Average weekly insurable earnings are earnings on which contributions were paid or credited to you during the last twenty-six (26) weeks immediately preceding the week in which your first day of continuous unemployment occurred, divided by the number of weeks for which contributions were paid or credited in the same period.

# **CLAIMING THE BENEFIT**

Claiming the Unemployment Assistance Benefit must be done by completing the application form that is available specifically for the purpose of this benefit. Additionally, **ALL** applicants are required to submit the Termination of Service - Lay-off certificate. Please note that this certificate is to be completed by the claimant's employer only and not the claimant.

Supporting documents required in the respective categories:

***Turks and Caicos Islanders:***

1. TCI Status Card
2. National Insurance Card
3. Valid passport biometric page

***Permanent Resident:***

1. Permanent Resident Certificate
2. National Insurance Card
3. Valid passport biometric page

**The application MUST be made within fourteen (14) days of the date of termination, OR fourteen (14) days from commencement of the National Insurance (Unemployment Assistance Benefit) Regulation.**



## **SUBMITTING THE CLAIM**

Application forms and ALL required supporting documents **MUST** be submitted via email:  
**[nibunemployment@tcinib.tc](mailto:nibunemployment@tcinib.tc)**

Applicants are advised to be sure and comply with **ALL** of the specified requirements when making application.

Request for additional or outstanding information will be made via email to the address provided on your claim. Please pay close attention to your email to avoid delays or disallowance of your application.

Kindly ensure that a valid bank account is provided on the application to allow for the remittance of your benefit.

For application forms kindly visit our website: **[www.tcinib.tc](http://www.tcinib.tc)**

For updates, press releases, news and additional guideline relating to the administering of the Temporary Unemployment Assistance Benefit, kindly frequent the TCI National Insurance Board's website and Facebook page.