

ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

Marystephanie Corsones
Interim Superintendent of Schools

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August 27, 2021

Dear ENL Families,

We at Onteora Central School District want you to know about money available to those who lost income or wages because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

New York State's Excluded Worker Fund provides one-time payments to workers who:

- Were excluded from Unemployment Insurance and the expanded federal COVID-related Unemployment Benefits (you are still eligible for this money if you received one or more federal stimulus checks);
- Currently live in New York State and lived in New York State before March 27, 2020;
- Worked at least 15 hours a week before April 3, 2020;
- Lost 50% or more of your income at any point, for at least one week, between February 23, 2020 and April 1, 2021 because of COVID-related loss of work or because a breadwinner in your home was ill or died from COVID;
- Earned \$26,208 (gross) or less between April 19, 2020 and April 19, 2021.

Any worker in your household, over the age of 18, who meets the criteria above can apply;

The New York State Department of Labor will ask you to prove your identity, New York State residency, and pre-pandemic employment and earnings by submitting documents. Depending on the documents you have, you are eligible for either \$15,600 or \$3,200.

You can find the list of documents you will need in order to apply on dol.ny.gov or on fundexcludedworkers.org (in English and Spanish).

You can apply directly to the New York State Department of Labor at ewf.labor.ny.gov (in English, Spanish and other languages). However, we strongly advise you to get help from a local organization before submitting your application.

The New York State Department of Labor is NOT allowed to share your personal information with any other government agency, including ICE.

If anyone tries to charge you money or collect personal info in order to submit your application for you, DO NOT pay them or give them personal information.

The application process is complicated, and must be completed online. Trusted community organizations have received funding to help you apply. In our area, **The Worker Justice Center in Kingston** can help you apply **for free**. They provide help over the phone and they will also hold a free clinic in Kingston on Thursday, September 9th from 3pm to 8pm. Call them for an appointment or for help by phone: 845-331-6615 extension 2007.

We urge you to contact the Worker Justice Center in Kingston to get free help with your application.

Sincerely,

Marystephanie Corsones
Interim Superintendent