COVID-19 Resources for Writers:


- PEN’s U.S. Writers Aid Initiative is relaunching in early August: https://pen.org/campaign/pen-america-writers-emergency-fund

- Dramatists Guild Foundation: https://dgf.org/programs/grants/grants-for-writers

- New York City Artist Corps, $5,000 grants for artists and writers: https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/cityartistcorp.page

- List of COVID-19 journalism funds (scroll to bottom of page): https://cpj.org/covid-19/

- Fund for Investigative Journalism: http://fij.org/

- Economic Hardship Reporting Project. The relief fund is suspended, but they also commission journalism: https://economichardship.org/submissions/

- Rory Peck Trust COVID-19 Relief Fund: https://rorypecktrust.org/freelance-assistance/covid-fund/


- The Learned Fangirl Freelance Emergency Fund, run by TheLearnedFangirl.com and Independent Arts & Media: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfR9UFBlxxOvdHY7zyvffq4OCnPdkwgWUkt_HriQnZGtnO_w/viewform

- Unemployment has been expanded to include freelancers and gig workers, including self-employed writers, contract writers, book authors, etc. This is called PUA. Visit your state’s Employment/Labor Division website to apply. Congress has extended PUA to September 6, 2021, with $300/week added to the base benefit. Dual W2 and 1099 earners can now receive an additional $100/week. Unfortunately, some states have dropped these benefits. The Authors Guild and Freelancers Union are great resources for guidance on PUA, e.g. Authors Guild advice for self-employed writers applying for PUA: https://www.authorsguild.org/industry-advocacy/applying-for-pua-here-are-some-important-reminders/
-If you received a PPP loan, apply for forgiveness: https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/covid-19-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program/ppp-loan-forgiveness

-The SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans. The $1,000 Advance Grants are no longer available, but low-interest SBA loans are available to self-employed freelancers: https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loans

-Behind the Scenes has an extensive mental health support website tailored to the needs of the entertainment industry. This includes access to a chat app, a therapist finder tool, and phone numbers to get support right away: https://wp.behindthescenescharity.org/mental-health-and-suicide-prevention-initiative/mental-health-resources/

**Relief for the General Public:**

-The March 10, 2021, American Rescue Plan introduced new benefits, including:

  --$1,400 direct payments to adults and dependents, including adult dependents

  --Extension of UI/PUA to September 6 with $300/week federal supplement (the supplement is now being cancelled in many states)

  --First $10,200 in unemployment payments will be non-taxable

  --Expansion of the child tax credit will send $3,000-$3,600/year per child to 93% of American families; plus expansion of tax credit for child care expenses; expansion of tax credit for childless workers

  --Reduction in cost of marketplace health insurance premiums and 100% funding of COBRA coverage through September: https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/06/29/american-rescue-plan-lowers-health-insurance-costs-americans-who-may-have-lost-their-job.html

  --More funding for rental assistance programs, PPP, home heating and cooling cost assistance, WIC, and food assistance for seniors


-There is a federal eviction moratorium, but it does not apply automatically. Renters must take certain steps: https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-housing-homelessness/national-eviction-moratorium
- NEW YORK STATE RESIDENTS - apply for rent and utility relief: https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance/

- CALIFORNIA STATE RESIDENTS - apply for rent relief: https://housing.ca.gov/covid_rr/

- Rent relief programs are operating in other states and cities: https://nlihc.org/rental-assistance. If you are concerned about housing: justshelter.org/community-resources. Info about housing issues: http://housingcourtanswers.org

- *NEW!* Emergency Broadband Credit, $50/month toward Internet service: https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/05/12/emergency-broadband-benefit-faq/

- General Support Database. Enter your zip code: https://findhelp.org/


Aggregate lists of resources for writers, including regional opportunities:

https://www.pw.org/content/resources_for_writers_in_the_time_of_coronavirus

https://creative-capital.org/2020/03/13/list-of-arts-resources-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/

https://covid19freelanceartistresource.wordpress.com/

https://dgf.org/resources-for-writers/

https://bombmagazine.org/articles/artists-resources/

https://artistsatriskconnection.org/story/covid-19-resources-for-artists

https://fundsforwriters.com/grants/

https://www.nyfa.org/Content/Show/Emergency%20Grants