

Wage Subsidy Extension Scheme

[10 June 2020 – 1 September 2020]

Date authored: 13 August 2020

Reviewed: 1 March 2021

This subsidy has ended and is no longer available to apply for.

At the time of writing there is a community outbreak of COVID-19 in the Auckland region. Therefore, things are moving quickly and we recommend that you check that the information below is still current before relying on it.

Any business impacted by changes in Alert Levels in June 2020 (Level 3 in the Auckland region and Level 2 for the rest of the country) was able to apply for the Wage Subsidy Extension Scheme. Applications for the scheme were open from 10 June 2020 and closed just before midnight on 1 September 2020 (11.59pm).

The Wage Subsidy Extension payment was made available on 10 June 2020 to support employers, including self-employed people, who were still significantly impacted by COVID-19. The original press release can be accessed [here](#).

Key details about the Wage Subsidy Extension Scheme

- You could apply to cover the wages of your employees over an eight-week period.
- You could apply for the Wage Subsidy Extension for your employee, even if you hadn't applied for the Wage Subsidy for them before.
- You couldn't apply for the same employee twice.
- If you had applied for the Wage Subsidy or Leave Support Scheme for your employee, you needed to wait until those payments were finished before you could apply for the Wage Subsidy Extension.
- You cannot receive more than one COVID-19 payment for the same employee at the same time.

Who can receive the payment?

You had to meet the following criteria to receive the Wage Subsidy Extension:

- You must have been an eligible employer;
- Your business must have been registered and operating in New Zealand;
- Your employees must have been legally working in New Zealand;
- Your business must have experienced a minimum 40 per cent decline in revenue;
- You must have mitigated the financial impact; and
- You must have retained the employees named in your application for the period of the Wage Subsidy Extension.

More details on the criteria for receiving the Wage Subsidy Extension can be found [here](#).

Payment rates

The subsidy was paid at a flat rate of:

- \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week (full-time rate)
- \$350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week (part-time rate)

The subsidy was paid as a lump sum and covered eight weeks per employee from the date your application was submitted.

If any employee's usual wages were less than the subsidy rate, the difference should have been used for the wages of other affected staff. If there were no other employees to use the subsidy for, then the remaining Wage Subsidy Extension should have been paid back.

If you're self-employed and the income you regularly draw from your business is less than the subsidy amount you received, you should have paid back the remaining amount.

How to apply for COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Extension

Applications could be made online from 10 June 2020 to 1 September 2020 on the relevant online application form.

As part of the application process you would have been asked to declare that you met the criteria and agree to the obligations for the use of the Wage Subsidy Extension payment. All payments are subject to audits and reviews. The declaration can be found [here](#).

See also:

[Work and Income: COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Extension](#)