
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 9, 2020

Ald. Chantia Lewis
(414) 286-2221

Ald. Lewis seeks quicker benefits process for residents hurting because of COVID-19

Alderwoman Chantia Lewis is working to help residents who are suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic get faster and easier access to resources and assistance.

In a letter (**attached**) sent today to **Caleb Frostman**, secretary of the state Department of Workforce Development, Alderwoman Lewis seeks better and quicker service for residents applying for unemployment benefits, housing assistance and medical care as a result of the pandemic.

“Many of those I represent are already facing profound medical challenges and are now confronted with pay cuts, limited work hours, furloughs, and even outright layoffs. For many of them the difference between medical care, food, and shelter and destitution may prove to be their ability to apply for and receive unemployment benefits in a timely fashion,” Alderwoman Lewis said.

The alderwoman urges Mr. Frostman to “do all in your power” to make the unemployment benefits application and review process “as transparent and seamless as possible.” “I honestly believe every day lost is a potential danger (to those affected),” she said.

Alderwoman Lewis, who serves as a member of the Public Safety and Health Committee (and the Licenses Committee), said she plans to share recommended application and process tips directly with residents so they can quickly and successfully apply for benefits.

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR

- Finance and Personnel Committee

MEMBER

- Licenses Committee
- Public Safety and Health Committee
- Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- Ethics Advisory Committee – Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin



CHANTIA LEWIS
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

April 9, 2020

Mr. Caleb Frostman
Secretary, Department of Workforce Development
201 E. Washington Ave
P.O. Box 7946
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Frostman:

I write on behalf of all the residents of my district and, frankly, all those members of the greater Milwaukee community who are struggling with the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those I represent are already facing profound medical challenges and are now confronted with pay cuts, limited work hours, furloughs, and even outright layoffs. For many of them the difference between medical care, food, and shelter and destitution may prove to be their ability to apply for and receive unemployment benefits in a timely fashion.

I want first to urge you to do all in your power to make the application and review process as transparent and seamless as possible. I honestly believe every day lost is a potential danger.

Second, could you or your staff provide me the best guide you have for the current application and review process including best methods of application, necessary documentation, and time-lines as to how long the process usually takes? I want to share this broadly and I am a firm believer in providing those who need services the best information that can be had.

Thank you very much for your consideration and for the continued diligence of you and your staff at what I am certain is a difficult time.

Should you have questions of me, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Chantia Lewis'.

Chantia Lewis
Alderwoman, 9th District