



American Rescue Plan – Update 3

This Report focuses on Emergency Rental Assistance and Employment Law updates. Please share and distribute as you see fit.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE UPDATES

The Manatee and Sarasota County Emergency Rental Assistance Programs (ERA) have in-person locations where renters will get personal, one-on-one help to apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Manatee County Locations for In-Person Assistance:

Gulfcoast Legal Services (1112 Manatee Ave E, Second Floor, Bradenton)

- Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Central Library (1301 Barcarrota Boulevard West, Bradenton)

- Tuesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Noon - 8 p.m.
- Thursday, 1-5 p.m.
- Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Palmetto Library (923 6th Street West, Palmetto)

- Tuesday, Noon - 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Thursday, 1-6 p.m.
- Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Saturday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Eligible renters may receive grant funds up to 12 months of assistance, if needed, through November 2021, whichever is less. Funds will be paid directly to the landlord.

Pinellas County

501 First Ave. N, Suite 420
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
T: (727) 821-0726
F: (727) 821-3340

Sarasota & Manatee Counties

1112 Manatee Ave. E
Bradenton, FL 34208
T: (941) 746-6151
F: (941) 746-3661

To contact the Manatee County ERA call: (941) 745-6270

Manatee County Locations for In-Person Assistance:

Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Public Library (2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota)

- Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Englewood County Building (370 W. Dearborn Street, Suite D, Englewood)

- By appointment only: call 941-473-9795.

Fruitville Public Library (100 Coburn Road, Sarasota)

- Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Goodwill Selby Newtown (1781 Dr. Martin Luther King Way, Sarasota)

- Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Laurel Park and Sandra Sims Terry Community Center (509 Collins Road, Nokomis)

- By appointment only: call 941-861-7368.

North Port Social Services (6961 Outreach Way, North Port)

- By appointment only: call 941-429-3700.

If you have questions or have trouble applying, call 941-861-RENT (7368) Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

The Return to Work initiative announced in May by The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is focused on encouraging Floridians to return to the

workforce, helping employers attract job seekers, and increasing the state's economic growth.

The DEO strongly encourages job-seekers to turn to CareerSource Florida for help. CareerSource Florida is the statewide workforce organization. It works closely with the DEO, 24 local workforce development boards and 100 career centers throughout Florida. CareerSource Florida connects businesses with the workforce.

Our local Manatee and Sarasota County CareerSource locations are known as CareerSource Suncoast. **CareerSource Suncoast is our resource for seeking employment or filing unemployment claims.** The Centers assist with job search, resume creation, referrals to employers and career planning. You can work independently or choose to meet with a Career Coach. The following tools are available to job seekers:

- Computers, Internet, Fax, Telephone, and Copier
- eLearning Courses
- Job Listings, Online Job Search and Job Referrals
- Resume-building Tools
- Salary and Labor Market Information
- Skills, Aptitude and Interest Assessments
- Network meetings designed to increase your Employability Skills

CareerSource Suncoast Locations are listed on their [website here](#).

The centers are open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on an appointment-only basis for individuals who do not have access to a computer and/or internet. Please call (941) 358-4200 to discuss if an appointment is right for you.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS, CONT.

Florida will end the \$300-a-week supplemental federal payment for the unemployed on June 26, 2021.

Residents claiming unemployment benefits through the Department of Economic Opportunity (“DEO”) must once again actively look for a job as a requirement to receive benefits. **The “work search requirement” was suspended throughout the pandemic, but reinstated on May 29, 2021.**

The local job market is improving. Over 25% of our labor force applied for reemployment assistance since the pandemic began in early March 2020 through the end

of May 2021. In Sarasota County, 25.8% of the labor force made claims. Manatee County was similar, with 25.5% of the labor force filing claims.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the number of job postings now is 25% higher than it was last year the same time.

The unemployment rate in both counties was 4.3% in April 2021. This is 10.2 percentage points lower than last year at this time. Our region was 0.8 percentage points lower than the state rate of 5.1%.