

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS

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July 9, 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you enjoyed celebrating the Fourth of July last weekend and got some time to relax with your families. I want to reach out to celebrate a big win for our members in that happened last week.

At the lobbying of organized labor, including the Carpenters Union, Governor Hochul agreed to pay off a federal loan, which will allow the cap on unemployment benefits to go **from \$504 to \$869** starting this October. I hope no brother or sister ever experiences it, but in our line of work, periods of unemployment are sometimes part of the work cycle. It's the nature of construction—projects end, seasons shift, markets turn. Whether it's a slowdown in the industry or just a lull between jobs, our hardworking brothers and sisters should not have to scrape by trying to put food on the table while they wait for a call from the Out-of-Work List.

This increase in benefits is long overdue, and it didn't happen by accident. It happened because working people stood together. And it happened because this union, your union, kept the pressure on.

This is what solidarity looks like, and it's another reminder that when we fight, we win.

In solidarity,

Paul Capurso
Executive Secretary-Treasurer