



EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS DURING COVID-19

The federal government passed the CARES Act, which included supplemental unemployment benefits in order to provide additional relief to unemployed workers.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)

- Provides an additional **\$600 per week**, on top of regular benefits, to all UC and PUA Recipients
 - If you are **already approved** for UC, then you **do not need to do anything**. Your benefits will automatically be updated.
 - If you **have not filed a claim**, then you should do the following:
 - Check eligibility at www.uc.pa.gov , “Am I Eligible” page.
 - File a claim either online at www.uc.pa.gov , “File an Initial Claim” page, or through the Pennsylvania Teleclaims System, **1-888-255-4728**.
 - These payments should have started to reach claimants already receiving regular unemployment benefits during the week of April 12th, and will appear as a separate payment.
 - These benefits would be retroactive beginning April 5, 2020 (**IF YOU WERE ELIGIBLE AT THAT TIME**) and will continue to be paid in installments for every week you are eligible **UNTIL JULY 31, 2020**.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

- Expanded eligibility for individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for UC benefits.
 - You should file for PUA if you are ineligible for regular unemployment because you have lost income due to COVID-19 and:
 - Are self-employed (includes independent contractors, gig economy workers, and workers for certain religious entities), or
 - Are seeking part-time work, or
 - Lack sufficient work history, or
 - Have exhausted all rights to regular unemployment or extended benefits.

You may submit PUA claims backdated to January 27, 2020. If you are found **eligible** for PUA, **you will receive compensation retroactive to January 27, 2020, or to the date when you became unemployed, whichever is more recent.**

The **maximum** length of time a person can collect PUA benefits is **39 weeks**. PUA benefits **will not** be available after the week of **December 25, 2020**.

This is a **SEPARATE** application, and those applying for PUA **SHOULD NOT** file a claim through the regular unemployment system.

Please visit www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/Filing-for-PUA.aspx to apply and for additional information about what documentation is needed to apply for PUA.

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)

Provides an **additional 13 weeks** of unemployment benefits, beyond the regular 26 weeks already provided, for a total of 39 weeks of benefits.

The additional 13 weeks will be available to workers who qualify for either regular UC Benefits OR PUA Benefits. PEUC benefits will be available through December 31, 2020.

Instructions on how to apply will be available shortly. The Pennsylvania Office of Unemployment Compensation is awaiting guidance from the United States Department of Labor.

If you need assistance or have questions, contact Northwestern Legal Services by calling 1-800-665-6957 or apply at www.nwls.org



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