
Unemployment Benefits and Covid19

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Current Pennsylvania UC Benefits

- Up to 26 weeks from regular PA UC
 - Plus an additional 13 weeks from PEUC
 - Plus (up to) an additional 13 weeks of EB
- Benefits range from \$68 per week to \$572 per week
- Paid every other week by direct deposit or debit card
- Almost all UC communication and decisions comes **by mail**



How to Get Regular UC Benefit Extensions

STEP 1

Apply and receive regular UC. In Pennsylvania, workers can qualify for up to 26 weeks of regular UC.

STEP 2

If you exhaust regular UC, you may then be eligible to receive **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)** for an additional 13 weeks..

STEP 3

If you exhaust PEUC, Pennsylvania now has a new extension called **Extended Benefits (EB)**. Most workers will be eligible for between 9 and 13 weeks of EB in Pennsylvania.

STEP 4

If you exhaust EB and are unemployed due to COVID-19, you may then be eligible to receive **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)****

****Note:** PUA eligibility is currently limited to 39 weeks, minus any weeks received from regular UC and EB. Any weeks of benefits received from PEUC will not count against your PUA eligibility.

For more information go to philalegal.org/UnemploymentCOVID



Federal Extension

- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- 13 weeks of benefits
- Ends on December 26 , 2020
- Automatically added to claims
- Online system will show the program as “EUC”
- **Only Exception:**
If a claim year has ended,
claimant must file the short PEUC application

Benefit Year Ending Date

BYEDate

06/13/2020

State Extension

- Extended Benefits program
- Up to 13 weeks of additional benefits ($\frac{1}{2}$ of eligible weeks of base claim)
- Automatically added to claims
- Remains in place as long as PA is in “high unemployment” **but concerns about funding**



Instructions for Filing EB Claims

To continue receiving benefits through this extension, all you need to do is continue filing biweekly claims. You will also receive an eligibility determination in the mail about the EB program.

However, there are two differences about filing for EB benefits:

- You cannot file through the automated PAT telephone system, **only online**. The government will mail you a paper application that you can mail back if you are unable to file online.
- When you login to file your biweekly claim, your account will say it is inactive. You need to click the “File an EB claim” button at the bottom of the screen to file.



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What Happens When EB Runs Out?

- No further extensions at this time
- **If claimant lost work due to COVID-19**, can qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Can receive up to 26 weeks of PUA
 - **Note:** PUA is scheduled to end on Dec. 26, 2020
- If claimant was not working before the pandemic, and did not have a job offer rescinded, they cannot collect PUA.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

- Federally funded program that provides benefits to workers who lost work due to COVID-19 and do **not** qualify for regular UC
- PUA ends on Dec. 26, 2020
- Still lots of problems with the PUA system, however fixes are being rolled out
- Anyone still owed regular PUA benefits for the April - July period will also still get their PUC
- Still lots of fraud in program, if someone thinks there is a fraudulent claim in their name they should report it

Is your PUA claim “In Progress” for identity verification issues?



Use “ID.me” to clear up any security hold on your PUA account and get your benefits shortly!

ID.me is not a scam

ID.Me will verify your identity to the government, so your PUA benefits can be released.

What do I need to do to fix the hold on my account?

Be on the lookout for a message in your **PUA portal**. A **notification** about the message should also show up on your **dashboard**.

Even if you uploaded ID documents before, use ID.me anyway if you get a message!

1 Click on the link to the ID.Me website in the message. You should see a PUA logo in the corner of the webpage 

2 Click create your ID.Me account.

3 Verify your Identity using one of two ways:

A. Upload **one** of the following documents to your account, using your smartphone. You may upload the following documents:



1. Driver's License
2. State-issued ID



3. Passport
4. Passport Card

B. Answer a few identity verification questions on your credit history

4 Check the box confirming that your information is accurate and click continue

5 On the next page, click “Allow and Continue” to allow ID.Me to send your verification to the government.

If you get stuck at any point, you can choose to video chat with an ID.Me employee to verify your identity.

✓ Once you have completed this process, the government will take the hold off your account and you should receive your money within the next few days.

What if I have additional holds on my account?

If you have other holds on your account, you will have to correct those before you can receive your money.

Differences Between UC and PUA

Unemployment Compensation

- Mostly for W-2 workers
- Have lost employment or had a reduction in employment
 - Discharged
 - Voluntarily quit/Leave of absence
 - Reduction in hours
 - Layoff/furlough
 - Lack of work
- Claimants file biweekly online or with automated telephone system
- SSN and 4 digit PIN required to file
- Payments made by direct deposit or debit card
- Federal and state extensions available

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

- For individuals who are ineligible for UC, primarily
 - Self-employed
 - Independent contractors/freelancers
 - Gig workers
 - Workers without enough work history to qualify for UC
- Claimants file weekly online
- Username and password required to file
- Payments made to debit card, although payments in June were made by check
- Available for 39 weeks

Lost Wage Assistance

- Program created by Executive Order that provided \$300 supplement
- Only available for 6 weeks: Aug 1 through Sept 5
- PUA claimants automatically enrolled
- UC claimants had to certify **online** that they were unemployed due to the effects of COVID-19
- Most claimants have received LWA is a lump sum
- Funding is still available, if claimants have not filed for these weeks **they should do so now**

Still Waiting on UC?

- Most are waiting for a determination on their separation from employment (fired or quit)
- Claim examiners remain very backed up
- Email UCHelp@pa.gov to provide information about separation and ask for a determination
- Keep checking mail for questionnaires or determinations
- Will not lose right to back benefits and PUC

Denied Benefits?

APPEAL!

- Recommend appealing by emailing ucappeals@pa.gov or through the online appeal form (fax and mail are also options)
- If you disagree with determination, still appeal even if you are beyond the deadline
- Keep the envelope the determination was mailed in
- Continue filing biweekly claims

Unemployment Appeal Hearings

- All hearings are currently held by telephone with a UC Referee
- Claimants will receive Notice of Hearing **in the mail**
- Must provide documents/evidence to Referee office **5 days before** hearing
- Claimants may qualify for free representation from local legal services program
- Can request a continuance if there is a conflict with a hearing or did not have sufficient notice



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QUESTIONS?

Visit www.uchelp.org/covid19

