

FREQUENTLY ASKED UI QUESTIONS

Answering Your Most-Asked Unemployment Insurance Questions

What benefits extensions are available through the new COVID-19 relief package?

Under the new COVID-19 relief package, federal unemployment benefits, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) have been extended for 11 weeks until March 14, 2021 (week ending March 13, 2021, for Louisiana).

In order to receive the extended benefits, claimants must continue to certify every week if you are unemployed or under-employed. There is no need to reapply or contact LWC unless your benefit year has come to an end or you are told to submit a new application.

How many weeks of PUA benefits can I receive?

PUA is now available through March 14, 2021, or for a total of 50 weeks of benefits, whichever comes first. The program also now includes a phase-out period – this means if you are receiving PUA benefits and have not used all 50 weeks as of March 14, 2021, you can continue receiving benefits until either you have used all 50 weeks or reach the week ending April 11, 2021, whichever comes first.

How do I submit additional documentation for new or continued PUA eligibility?

Federal law states that all PUA claimants provide employment documentation. We are currently awaiting additional details from US DOL on what documents will be required and how they should be submitted. We will contact everyone impacted by this change in federal law with additional details. In addition, everyone receiving PUA must continue to submit weekly certifications confirming they are still experiencing a COVID-19-related reason for unemployment.

How many weeks of PEUC are now available?

Originally, PEUC provided 13 additional weeks of benefits after an individual used all 26 weeks of state unemployment insurance benefits. The original PEUC program expired on December 27, 2020. The program has now been extended through March 14, 2021, and increased to provide a total of up to 24 weeks of additional benefits.

The program also now includes a phase-out period – this means if you are receiving PEUC benefits as of March 14, 2021, and have not used all 24 weeks of benefits, you will be able to receive benefits until you have used all 24 weeks or reach the week ending April 11, 2021, whichever comes first.

What should I do if I am receiving benefits through the Extended Benefits (EB) program, but I am now eligible for PEUC benefits again?

Claimants who are currently receiving EB will not be able to receive PEUC until they exhaust their EB benefits. After you have received all 13 weeks of benefits from the EB program, you will need to re-file for benefits in order to receive the additional weeks available of PEUC.

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What should I do if I have already exhausted my eligible PUA or UI benefits, including benefits through the extension programs PEUC and EB?

Claimants who exhausted the PUA or UI benefits (including PEUC and EB) available before this 11-week extension and remain unemployed should file another claim for benefits.

Please note:

1. If your benefit year (the 52-week period starting when you first received benefits) has ended, you can reapply for benefits. The best way to apply is online at louisianaworks.net > File a Claims
2. If you have already exhausted your PUA or UI benefits (including PEUC and EB), federal law provides that you can only receive benefits for weeks ending on or after January 2, 2021. No retroactive benefits will be paid.

Are additional Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits available through the new COVID-19 relief package? If so, when will I begin to receive these payments?

Yes - FPUC benefits have been extended. Starting the week ending January 2, 2021, Louisianans receiving unemployment benefits will receive an additional \$300 weekly payments. Under federal law, these payments will last for 11 weeks, until the week ending March 14, 2021, if you are receiving benefits.

To receive FPUC benefits, claimants must be eligible for and receive state unemployment insurance, PUA, PEUC, TRA, DUA, or EB benefits. Louisianans will begin receiving FPUC benefits the week of January 3, 2021 — These FPUC payments will be for the week ending January 2, 2021, the first week these benefits can be paid under federal law.

Are FPUC benefits available for the benefit weeks of July 27, 2020 to December 26, 2020?

No. Under federal law, FPUC benefits cannot be paid retroactively for those weeks – they can only be paid starting the week ending January 2, 2021.

What should I do when I get to the end of the new federal extensions?

If you are still unemployed after you exhaust the additional 11 weeks of benefits, we recommend that you continue to submit weekly certifications. This will help the LWC provide you with retroactive benefits faster if these programs are subsequently extended or the federal government creates new benefit programs. Please note, you will not receive additional benefits until the federal government extends or creates programs you are eligible for. If that happens, we will contact you.

Does the new COVID-19 relief package have any impact on pending Lost Wages Assistance payments?

Eligible Louisianans whose claims are being adjudicated may still qualify for backdated LWA payments. As a reminder, the LWA program provided an additional \$300 in enhanced benefits for Louisianans who were unemployed and receiving benefits during the weeks ending August 2, 2020 through September 6, 2020.

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