

Frequently Asked Questions

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) programs ending

Act No. 276, enacted June 15, 2021, ends Louisiana's participation in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) as of July 31, 2021. This brings an end to the following federally funded unemployment programs:

- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**
- **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)**
- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**
- **Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)**

The same law also raises the maximum weekly benefit amount (WBA) by \$28. The WBA increase from \$247 to \$275 is the first in more than a decade, and it goes into effect for all new initial claims filed 1/2/22 or later. If you don't qualify for the maximum weekly benefit amount, you will get a proportional increase in weekly benefits.

What does this mean for me?

- If you become unemployed by July 31, you can still file a claim on our [HiRE](#) website through Sept. 4, 2021, including if you qualify for PUA, PEUC, or MEUC. However, no unemployment benefits will be paid on PUA, PEUC, or MEUC-eligible claims for any weeks claimed after July 31.
- July 31 is the last date eligible unemployment claims will qualify for the \$300 weekly FPUC benefit supplement in Louisiana and the last payable week for PUA and PEUC claims.
- Any benefits remaining on either a PEUC or PUA claim after July 31, 2021, will not be available.
- Any pending determinations of eligibility and/or active appeals on PEUC or PUA claims will continue.
- Appeal rights are protected on any PEUC or PUA determinations made after July 31, 2021.

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Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

This program provides unemployment benefits for individuals who do not qualify for state-funded benefits.

How are PUA claims impacted?

- The last payable week will change from Sept. 4, 2021, to July 31, 2021.
- The last date you will be able to self-service file for weekly benefits through our [HiRE](#) website or automated (IVR) phone system on your PUA claim will be Aug. 14, 2021, for week ending July 31.
- HiRE and our IVR system will not accept any certifications on a PUA claim with a week ending date past July 31, 2021.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

This program extends “regular” unemployment claims that have exhausted state-funded benefits.

How are PEUC claims impacted?

- The last payable week for the PEUC claim will change from Sept. 4, 2021, to July 31, 2021.
- If you are still unemployed after July 31, 2021, and have benefits available, the next time you file your claim will revert back to the “regular” state-funded unemployment claim that was initially established prior to your PEUC claim.
- The weekly benefit amount may be less since it is based on wages from 2020.



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Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

This program provides \$300 in weekly supplemental federal unemployment benefits to eligible claimants in PUA and PEUC, as well as state-funded “regular” unemployment and Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

How does ending the FPUC program impact DUA & regular unemployment insurance claims?

- July 31 will be the last date eligible unemployment claims will qualify for the \$300 weekly FPUC benefit supplement.
- Claimants will still receive their DUA/regular UI benefits each week that they remain eligible on their existing claim after July 31, but the \$300 weekly benefits supplement will end.
- Any pending determinations of eligibility and/or active appeals on a current DUA/regular UI claim that involve claimed weeks prior to July 31, 2021, and are found in the claimant’s favor will result in the claimant receiving retroactive payment of the \$300 FPUC benefit as well as applicable DUA/regular UI benefits for the weeks in question.
- Claimant’s appeal rights are protected on any eligibility determinations made after July 31, 2021, for claimed weeks prior to July 31.

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Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)

This program allows individuals with a state-funded or PEUC claim and at least \$5,000 in self-employment income in the calendar year prior to when the pandemic-related unemployment claim was filed to receive an additional \$100 in weekly benefits.

How is the MEUC program impacted?

- PUA claims are NOT eligible for MEUC.
- MEUC is a supplemental benefit, similar to FPUC. Claimants who qualify for the \$100 weekly MEUC benefit still qualify/receive the \$300 FPUC weekly supplement for the same weeks.
- MEUC is still in development in Louisiana. Even though the program may not launch prior to July 31, claimants will be able to request and file for MEUC on their prior eligible claim.
- July 31 is the last week end date for the \$100 weekly MEUC benefit.

Frequently Asked Questions

(for employers)

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Taxable Employers

- LWC will reinstate its standard practice of benefit charges to taxable employers on August 1, 2021, as COVID-related unemployment benefit programs come to an end.
- Beginning August 1, Louisiana employers who are subject to Louisiana unemployment taxes will again be charged for unemployment claim benefits paid to qualifying former employees. This includes claims that link the reason for the job separation to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Louisiana has not taxed employers for any paid COVID-related unemployment benefits since March 2020, which has kept more than 100,000 businesses' experience rating from increasing.
- It is estimated that 80 percent of unemployment claims currently being administered by the LWC are in ARPA-funded programs. The remaining 20 percent of claims are considered "regular" state-funded unemployment claims, with benefits paid through the state's Unemployment Trust Fund.

Reimbursable Employers

- The federally subsidized Emergency Unemployment Relief for Governmental Entities and Nonprofit Organizations program will continue for reimbursable employers until the planned ARPA end date of September 4, 2021.
- The program covers 75 percent of UI benefits paid since April 10, 2021, with the employer responsible for the remaining 25 percent.
- After September 4, 2021, reimbursable employers in Louisiana will return to 100 percent responsibility for all claim benefits paid to qualifying former employees.

