

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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134,000 Ohioans Can Again Receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Benefits New Claims Also Are Being Accepted

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Weekend system upgrades by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, required by new federal mandates, have made federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance again available to 134,000 Ohioans who have been waiting to receive these benefits since the program expired on December 26th. These upgrades also allow for Ohioans to submit new PUA applications.

“Time has been of the essence as we worked to implement the programming necessary to provide these benefits,” said Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) Director Kimberly Henderson. “Those eligible will receive all benefits they are entitled to, in addition to the new weekly \$300 supplemental payments available to all unemployment insurance beneficiaries through recent federal legislation.”

The PUA program supports business owners, the self-employed, independent contractors, and others who don’t qualify for traditional unemployment benefits. It was originally created by the federal CARES Act in March 2020 in response to the pandemic. The federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, signed on December 27, extended and amended the program, but with new program integrity requirements and complexities that are taking all states time to implement.

The new legislation provides up to an additional 11 weeks of PUA, or 50 weeks total, for eligible individuals. The weekend system allows claimants to receive benefits for a portion of those 11 extended weeks. The affected individuals have been notified and can now log into their accounts, file claims, and receive payments for which they are eligible. Payment amounts will vary by individual.

ODJFS is posting updates with target implementation dates at jfs.ohio.gov/caa, frequently asked questions at unemployment.ohio.gov, and an [infographic](#) showing all the available unemployment programs.

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The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services manages vital programs that strengthen Ohio families. These include job training and employment services, unemployment insurance, cash and food assistance, child care, child and adult protective services, adoption, and child support services.

