



New Federal Pandemic Unemployment Programs

The federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed on March 27, 2020, created three new federal programs for Americans who lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

PUA provides up to 39 weeks of benefits to many who historically have not qualified for unemployment benefits, such as self-employed workers, 1099 tax filers, part-time workers, and those who lack sufficient work history. Individuals who have exhausted all regular unemployment and any federal and state extensions also may be eligible. PUA is available through December 31, 2020. To be eligible, individuals must not qualify for regular unemployment benefits and must meet one of the following circumstances:

- The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or is experiencing symptoms and is seeking medical diagnosis.
- A member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The individual is providing care for a family member or member of the household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 emergency, and the school or care is required for the individual to work.
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because a healthcare professional has advised him or her to self-quarantine due to COVID-19 concerns.
- The individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The individual has quit his/her job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The individual was laid off as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The individual's place of employment is closed as a direct result of COVID-19.

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

FPUC provides an additional \$600 a week to existing benefit amounts for those in multiple programs, including but not limited to regular unemployment benefits, PUA, Trade benefits, and SharedWork Ohio benefits. The first payment includes any retroactive payments claimants may be eligible for. This payment was available from April 4 through July 25.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

PEUC provides up to 13 weeks of additional benefits for Ohioans who exhaust their maximum 26 weeks of regular unemployment benefits. This program also began on March 29; it will end on December 26. Those who are eligible will receive instructions for how to apply.

Lost Wages Supplemental Payment Assistance (LWA)

LWA was made possible by an executive memorandum issued on August 8, 2020. The program provides grants to participating states to use Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding to provide supplemental assistance to individuals who are partially or totally unemployed, or working reduced hours under a SharedWork Ohio plan, because of COVID-19. Ohio applied for a grant and was approved to provide weekly \$300 supplemental payments to eligible individuals receiving regular unemployment benefits, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Trade benefits, SharedWork Ohio benefits and extended unemployment benefits for one or more weeks ending August 1 through September 5, 2020.