

CARES ACT AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed a federal stimulus package known as the CARES Act. Within this act are three benefits that unemployed individuals may be eligible for. These benefits are outlined below and additional questions are answered throughout this document.

- **FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)**
This emergency benefit provides most individuals an emergency increase in traditional unemployment insurance benefits of \$600 per week through the week ending July 25, 2020.
- **PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)**
This emergency benefit provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits to people not otherwise eligible for regular unemployment, including the self-employed and those who have exhausted their regular and extended benefits.
- **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)**
This benefit provides an additional 13 weeks of emergency unemployment insurance for people who remain unemployed after they have exhausted their traditional unemployment benefits.

Topics in this FAQ:

GENERAL

FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)

GENERAL

If I already filed for unemployment benefits do I need to apply again?

If you have applied for or are currently receiving unemployment benefits, you do not need to apply again to access these benefits.

After I file a claim for unemployment benefits, how long will it take to receive state or federal CARES Act benefit payments?

Claims are processed in the order in which they are received. This usually takes up to 21 days; however, due to the current volume of claims, processing delays may occur. We understand this is a difficult time for you and we thank you for your patience as we work as quickly as possible to process your claim. Continue to file your weekly certifications while your claim is being processed.

When will these resources be available?

The federal stimulus package known as the CARES Act has passed, however, these benefits are not yet available. Final federal guidance on how to administer BENEFIT 1 and BENEFIT 2 was received on April 4 and April 5, 2020 from the U.S. Department of Labor. Final guidance on how to administer BENEFIT 3 has not yet been provided. We are evaluating this recently received guidance and actively working on creating these new programs. These new programs will take time to implement but we are doing so as quickly as possible. Please continue to check this FAQ for the latest information regarding the CARES Act benefits.

FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)

If I have a pending unemployment application, do I need to apply again for the additional \$600?

No, if you are currently filing for benefits there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

If I am currently receiving unemployment benefits do I need to apply again for the additional \$600?

No, there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

Will the additional \$600 come a different way than my regular unemployment benefit?

No, once the benefit becomes available you will receive it in the same way as you receive your traditional unemployment benefit.

When will I start to see the additional \$600 on my unemployment?

The federal stimulus package known as the CARES Act has passed, however, these benefits are not yet available. Final federal guidance on how to administer this benefit was received on April 4, 2020 from the U.S. Department of Labor. We are evaluating this recently received guidance and actively working on creating these new programs. These new programs will take time to implement, please continue to check this FAQ for the latest information regarding the CARES Act benefits.

Will I get an additional \$600 for weeks in the past?

Once the process has been built and deployed, the additional \$600 will be effective for weeks beginning 03/29/20.

Will any additional income I received through these benefits impact my eligibility for unemployment benefits?

No, funds you receive as a result of this stimulus package will not impact your income eligibility as it is not considered earned income.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

If I am receiving unemployment benefits am I also eligible for this benefit?

No, this benefit is only considered when an individual is determined to be ineligible for both traditional and extended unemployment.

If I have already applied for unemployment, should I also apply for this benefit?

No, if you are currently filing for or receiving unemployment benefits there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

When will I start to get pandemic unemployment benefits and how will I know if I am approved?

The federal stimulus package known as the CARES Act has passed, however, these benefits are not yet available. Final federal guidance on how to administer this benefit was received on April 5, 2020 from the U.S. Department of Labor. We are evaluating this recently received guidance and actively working to create these new programs. These new programs will take time to implement but we are doing so as quickly as possible. Please continue to check this FAQ for the latest information regarding the CARES Act Benefits.

How do I know if I should apply for traditional unemployment or pandemic unemployment?

There is one application for benefits. If you are unemployed due to COVID-19, file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits at NEworks.nebraska.gov to automatically be considered for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

Where can I apply for pandemic unemployment and when will the application be available?

File a regular unemployment insurance claim at NEworks.nebraska.gov to automatically be considered for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

What information will I need to provide to be able to apply for benefits?

It is recommended you have the following information when you file:

- Your Social Security Number
- The names of all employers as they appear on your pay stub with the dates worked for all employers since October 1, 2018
- Wage information, including your tax information from 2019
- The name and local number of your union hall, if you obtain work through a union
- Your State Driver's License or Identification Card number, if you have one
- Your Alien Registration Number, if you are not a U.S. citizen but are legally authorized to work in the United States
- If you have any non-Nebraska employers, you must have an accurate mailing address and phone number for them
- If you are self employed, you may be asked to provide details regarding your business. This may occur after you file your initial application.

If I do not provide accurate information on my application, will I have to repay benefits received?

Yes. As with any unemployment claim, you are required to provide accurate information or face penalties including denial of benefits and repayment of benefits.

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC)

If I have a pending unemployment application do I need to apply again for the additional 13 weeks?

No, if you are currently filing for and receiving unemployment benefits there is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you are unemployed.

If I was receiving unemployment in the past and I used up all of my eligible weeks, do I need to reapply for unemployment benefits?

More information on this benefit will be available soon.

When will I begin to receive my 13 weeks of extended unemployment benefits?

While the law has been passed by Congress, the Department of Labor must provide guidance to all states on the proper administration of the program and how to properly draw down the additional federal funds. In addition, once that guidance is received, the division will have to build and deploy the program for Nebraska. We encourage you to continue to check this FAQ for regular updates. Please do not call the claims assistance team for updates as these updates will only be provided online.

If I was on unemployment benefits in the past, but am currently employed, should I apply for the additional 13 weeks?

No. This benefit provides an additional 13 weeks of emergency unemployment insurance for people who remain unemployed after they have exhausted their traditional unemployment benefits. Because you are employed, you do not qualify.