

Unemployment Insurance Benefits CARES Act



UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE EXTENSION UNDER CARES ACT CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT:

President Trump signed into law the provisions of the CARES Act on March 27, 2020.

This law makes a number of changes to the availability of unemployment insurance benefits including increasing availability to those who are self-employed or contract workers, those ineligible for state unemployment benefits and those who have exhausted benefits.

The CARES Act includes expansion of unemployment insurance benefits as follows:

- Expands eligibility to individuals who historically have not been eligible for unemployment benefits such as individuals who are self-employed, contract workers or gig workers under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.
- Provides people with an additional \$600 per week in Pandemic Unemployment Compensation on top of the unemployment amount already offered by Arizona Unemployment benefits. This includes the newly-eligible individuals outlined above.
 - The additional Pandemic Unemployment Compensation provided is not considered “income” for purposes of Medicaid and CHIP
- Authorizes extended benefits for an additional 13 weeks for individuals who exhaust their unemployment benefits.

NOTICE: The CARES Act has been signed into law, and Arizona is awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor on when the benefits will be available.

Although these additional benefits are not yet available, Arizona is now accepting applications for CARES Act benefits, and those claims will be processed as soon as DES receives additional guidance.

We are in the process of making changes to the unemployment insurance program. We will keep you updated through our website, media outlets and social media. Our customer service representatives do not have additional information at this time.

If your benefits are affected, we will notify you.

For those who were previously eligible and have already applied, please continue to file your weekly claim. For those who are self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit employees, and gig economy workers, or requesting an extension of benefits and are not currently filing weekly claims, please submit your initial application now. [You may file a claim here.](#) If you have already filed a claim, you do not need to take any action at this time. Please continue to check this website daily for updates.

Question: Who is eligible for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program under the CARES Act?

Answer: The CARE Act increases availability of unemployment benefits for individuals who are self-employed, independent contract workers, nonprofit employees, and gig economy workers, those ineligible for state unemployment benefits or have exhausted benefits. All individuals eligible for UI either through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program or under existing law would also be eligible for the \$600/week in additional benefits.

Question: If I am self-employed, do I need to file an application for unemployment?

Answer: Yes, you will first need to file a claim online to see if you are eligible for a regular claim.

Question: If I am receiving benefits, do I need to file an application for unemployment to receive the additional \$600 benefit payment?

Answer: No, if you have filed an unemployment application and it is being processed or you have an existing unemployment claim, there is nothing else you need to do to receive the additional benefits. We will begin issuing those payments as they become available.

Question: I was receiving unemployment through last week and my benefits have exhausted. I am still within my benefit year and was told I can't file again until my claim expires. Do I need to file an unemployment application to receive the additional money that was passed in legislation for the CARES Act?

Answer: No, you do not need to file a new application. All claimants that exhausted benefits after 02/02/20, whichever is later, will be processed for the extended benefits. When the extended benefits are available, additional information will be posted on our website.

Question: How do I know if I qualify for unemployment benefits?

Answer: We will notify you after you file an unemployment application. We cannot determine if you qualify until we process your application.

Additional Information on other federal legislation: On Saturday, the U.S. Department of Labor issued guidance in the form of a question and answer resource to clarify key requirements in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act around the new paid sick leave mandate and expanded family and medical leave. These new provisions take effect on April 1, 2020 and expire on December 31, 2020.

Additional FAQs from the U.S. Department of Labor:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>