

PUA UPDATE

Monday, May 11

EARLIER PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SYSTEM ACCESS

On Friday, May 8, you received an email about Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. We are issuing an update to that communication to let you know you can begin providing this information earlier than previously indicated.

DES has been able to offer you earlier access to the system to begin providing the information needed to confirm your ongoing eligibility and determine your weekly benefit amount any time after 6:00 p.m. on May 12.

As we previously shared, if you initially applied for regular unemployment insurance between February 2 and May 2, and you were determined to be eligible for PUA, you will be receiving a paper check, mailed today, for three weeks' worth of the minimum benefit amount (equivalent to \$117 in weekly PUA benefits plus the \$600 weekly Federal Pandemic Unemployment Insurance benefit, for a total of \$2,151 for three weeks).

In order to receive additional payments, you must both update your initial claim (beginning May 12) and file weekly certifications (beginning May 17).

Beginning May 12, the initial system access will allow you to update your claim, including providing your basic demographic information and information about your wages and earnings. As we previously communicated, federal requirements for PUA use wage information from calendar year 2019 to determine the PUA weekly benefit amount. Please prepare to provide documentation of any wages and/or self-employment from calendar year 2019.

Acceptable documentation can include, but is not limited to:

- 2019 Tax Returns, including Schedule C (if completed);
- 2019 W2s;
- Copies of paycheck stubs showing your 2019 earnings;
- 1099s from 2019;
- Bank receipts showing deposits in 2019;
- Your 2019 business records, including ledgers, invoices or billing notices you provided to your clients or customers, business licenses, business lease agreements and invoices, and advertisements for your business or services.

You do not have to have all of the documents listed above, only those relevant to your work history. Additionally, if you do not have any of the documents listed above, or those documents do not reflect your full 2019 income, you may submit copies of other documents that you believe would demonstrate your 2019 income. The documents will be evaluated by DES.

Please also be prepared to report any compensation you have received each week since your last day of full-time employment.

Beginning May 17, you must file weekly certifications to receive PUA benefits for other weeks. Additional payments will not occur until these weekly certifications are completed. You can provide these certifications for the weeks in which you were eligible for benefits, even if you have started to work again. Weekly certifications include:

- Certifications for each week back to your last day of employment (but no earlier than February 2, 2020). You will have to file certifications for each week for which you are claiming eligibility for benefits.
- Certifications each week for as long as you continue to claim and be eligible for benefits, up to 39 weeks of total benefits

If your claim is able to be processed without requiring additional information, your additional benefits will be able to be paid the week of May 17. As a reminder, the fastest way to receive your PUA benefits will be through direct deposit. You will have the opportunity to provide your banking information to register for direct deposit through the PUA system so you can receive your benefits faster. If you do not register for direct deposit, you will receive an Electronic Payment Card through Bank of America, onto which your benefits will be loaded.



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