



PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

There is expanded eligibility for unemployment compensation benefits to workers that would not qualify for traditional unemployment compensation.

Q: Who is covered under PUA?

- Workers who have exhausted their rights to traditional Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits after July 19, 2019
- Workers who are self-employed, freelancers, independent contractors, gig workers, and/or 1099 tax filers
- Workers who lost or are working at reduced hours in part-time employment
- Workers who lack sufficient work history or earnings to qualify for traditional UC benefits

Q. Who is NOT covered under PUA?

- Workers who can telework with pay
(unless they work fewer hours than they did prior to COVID-19, in which case they may qualify for Disaster Unemployment Assistance)
- Workers receiving paid leave unless they are getting benefits for less than their normal work week

Q: How many weeks may a person receive PUA benefits?

A: Benefits are capped at 39 weeks.

Q: If PUA is approved, how much will I get in PUA benefits?

A: The benefit amount is similar to traditional unemployment benefits, and the minimum PUA amount is \$189.00. Otherwise, it is 50% of your average weekly wage.

Q: I heard about a \$600 payment. Will I get it too?

A: Starting the week ending April 4, 2020, through July 25, 2020, if you qualify for PUA benefits, you will also receive an additional \$600.00 per week through the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) program.

Q: How do I apply for PUA benefits in Ohio?

A: Apply online at <https://pua.unemployment.ohio.gov>. If you have questions, call 1-833-604-0774.

Q: What info will I need to apply for PUA?

A: Name, address, telephone number, a valid email address, social security number, date of birth, driver’s license or state ID number, and dates of employment for 2019 and 2020; Reason for unemployment; Dependent information (spouse or children) and their social security number and date of birth; Banking information for direct deposit (or you can choose to get benefits on a debit card); and 2019 tax return if available

If you are self-employed, you must submit acceptable proof of employment, including but not limited to, W-2 forms, recent pay stubs or vouchers, earnings statements (reflecting profit and loss), or recent bank records showing payroll direct deposit.

Q: Do I have to submit weekly claims to receive PUA benefits?

A: Yes, you must submit a claim for every week you have been unemployed due to COVID-19.

Q: What are the current dates of the PUA program?

A: January 27, 2020-December 31, 2020

For a Step-by-Step Application Instructions for PUA see:

<https://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/pdf/PUA-StepByStepApplicationInstructions.pdf>

This information is current as of 06/19/2020.

Questions?

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services 833.288.2936 (Southeastern Ohio)

Legal Aid Society of Columbus 614.241.2001 (Central Ohio)

Marion Office 740.383.2161 or 888.301.2411 (Delaware, Marion, Morrow, and Union counties)

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