NEW YORK STATE

Unemployment Insurance COVID-19 updates

Federal unemployment benefits

The weekly $600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefit has expired, but there is a new federal program to provide eligible New Yorkers with an additional benefit. Under FEMA's Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program, both traditional Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) recipients may be eligible for an additional unemployment benefit of up to $300 per week. The benefit will be retroactive to August 1.

The New York State Department of Labor (DOL) is working to implement this program as quickly as possible. It will notify claimants if they must take any action to certify and receive these additional benefits. Until then, please continue to certify weekly so that you continue to receive all the benefits you are entitled to.

To allow your fellow New Yorkers to reach a representative for regular UI or PUA matters, please do NOT call the DOL to inquire about the federal administration's announcement at this time.

State benefits are still available to New Yorkers

- File online 7 days a week from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. or call 888-209-8124 Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Any claim you file will be backdated to the date you became unemployed. If you are eligible, you will be paid for all benefits due.
- **Certifying your benefits:** Continue to claim weekly benefits as long as you are unemployed and meet the eligibility requirements.
- Check your mail and email, and respond to any questionnaires, online forms or phone calls from the Department of Labor right away to prevent delays in your payments.
- First-time claim? Sign in or create a **NY.gov ID** account and follow the instructions to file a claim. **https://dol.ny.gov/unemployment/file-your-first-claim-benefits**
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) also extends benefits to individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits (e.g., self-employed workers, independent contractors and farmers). Under federal law, those receiving PUA are eligible for up to 46 weeks of benefits.
- New Yorkers who are receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits are eligible for up to 59 weeks of benefits. This includes 26 weeks of regular benefits, 13 weeks of Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and up to 20 weeks of Extended Benefits (EB). Visit **www.dol.ny.gov** to learn more.
- Get answers to common questions about how returning to work impacts your unemployment benefits. **https://www.labor.ny.gov/ui/pdfs/returning-to-work-and-UI.pdf**

Like many New Yorkers, DOL representatives are working from home so your caller ID may show "PRIVATE CALLER." Anyone calling from DOL will verify their identity by providing: (a) the date you filed your application and (b) the type of claim.

Updated 10-13-2020