

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.

- **PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA, For those not traditionally eligible)**
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, Additional 13 weeks of benefits)**
This benefit provides an additional 13 weeks of emergency unemployment insurance for people who remain unemployed after they have exhausted their traditional unemployment benefits.
- **FEDERAL PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC, ADDITIONAL \$600 PER WEEK)**
This benefit expired July 25. Workers who qualify will still receive benefits through other programs provided they file weekly claims at [Neworks.nebraska.gov](https://neworks.nebraska.gov) and meet eligibility criteria. If the FPUC program is extended, NDOL will issue information regarding available benefits.

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PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA, For those not traditionally eligible)

PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC, Additional 13 weeks of benefits)

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 benefit payments?

If you qualify for regular benefits, the processing time for a new claim is generally 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. Back payments will be issued for all eligible weeks.

When will Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the additional 13 weeks of benefits under the PANDEMIC EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (PEUC) be available?

Nebraska is issuing PUA and PEUC payments.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA, For those not traditionally eligible)

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.

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

There is one application for benefits. If you are unemployed or working reduced hours, file a claim for unemployment insurance benefits at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://nebraska.nebraska.gov) to automatically be considered for all available benefits.

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

File a regular unemployment insurance claim at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://nebraska.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, Additional 13 weeks of benefits)

How can someone apply for this benefit?

Continue to file weekly claims, or reopen your claim and then file weekly claims at [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://nebraska.nebraska.gov). If your claim has expired, file a new claim.

When will these benefits be available?

NDOL has begun issuing payments for the additional 13 weeks of benefits.

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

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

Is this benefit retroactive?

This federal benefit is for workers who have exhausted regular benefits after July 1, 2019. The earliest week that can be claimed is the week ending April 4.

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.