

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Frequently Asked Questions

The federal CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020. The Act provides enhanced Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for Oregonians. Here's what you need to know.

1) What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)?

PUA is a program that provides unemployment benefits to workers not typically covered by regular unemployment insurance benefits. This includes the:

- Self-employed, 1099 contract workers, and gig workers who weren't already eligible
- Employees whose wages are not reported for unemployment insurance
- Employees who have not earned enough wages or worked enough hours for regular unemployment benefits, and
- People who were going to start work but could not.

2) Who is eligible for PUA?

Those who are out of work due to COVID-19 and not eligible for any other unemployment insurance benefits will be eligible for PUA. Eligible workers include the:

- Self-employed, 1099 contract workers, and gig workers
- Employees whose wages are not reported for unemployment insurance
- Employees who have not earned enough wages or worked enough hours for regular unemployment benefits, and
- People who were going to start work but could not.

3) When and how do I apply for PUA?

We are working on the process and application form for this program. Please sign up for updates on our main COVID-19 page, and you will automatically receive a notification when we post program and application updates.

4) How much can I get from PUA?

The minimum PUA benefit is \$205 per week. You could be eligible for an increased benefit amount between \$205 and \$648 per week. The weekly benefit is determined based on a percentage of earnings during the prior year. If you provide us additional information that increases your weekly benefit amount we will review it and pay you the difference for all the weeks you were already paid. This process can take several weeks from when we receive the information.

If you are eligible for PUA, you will also receive an additional \$600 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits per eligible week from the week starting March 29 through the week through July 25, 2020.

5) How long will PUA last?

PUA benefits may last for up to 39 weeks you are eligible and out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Possible eligible weeks begin on the week starting February 2, 2020, through the week ending December 26, 2020.

6) Will PUA be paid retroactively?

Yes. PUA will be paid retroactively for up to 39 eligible weeks you are out of work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Possible eligible weeks begin on the week starting February 2, 2020, through the week ending December 26, 2020.

7) How long will it take before I can get my payments?

After the application process opens, we anticipate that tens of thousands or even hundreds of thousands of applications to be submitted, likely all at once. We will have staff trained and ready to start processing applications when the program opens. Still, each claim requires review for each week of eligibility, and that processing will take time. We will post more information on payment timeframes as it becomes available. Sign up for COVID-19 page notifications to receive automatic updates.

8) I already filed for unemployment, now what do I do?

Even if you previously filed an unemployment claim, please complete the PUA application and certification forms when they become available. Sign up for updates on our main [COVID-19 page](#), and you will automatically receive a notification when we post program and application updates.