



Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Frequently Asked Questions

Note: Information is updated frequently and is also subject to change. Please check back for updates based on further guidance and clarification received from the U.S. Department of Labor.

On May 12, 2021 Governor Gox announced that Utah will be ending participation in the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (FPUC) on June 26, 2021.

If I am receiving traditional 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 benefits.

If I have already applied for traditional unemployment benefits, should I also apply for this benefit?

No, you should not apply for this benefit if you have a pending application for traditional unemployment. If you have applied for and did not qualify, or were denied, for traditional unemployment benefits, then you should apply for PUA if you are out of work due to COVID-19. If you are receiving traditional unemployment benefits, you are not eligible for this benefit and should not apply.

Do I need to re-apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) with the new American Rescue Plan Act of 2021?

No; however, you will need to continue to file a weekly claim for every week that you remain unemployed and are in need of the benefit to be considered for eligibility.

When can I apply for the extended Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program and when will I start to get benefits? How will I know if I am approved?

If you have not already applied, the PUA application is already available at jobs.utah.gov/covid19. The application is only available online and must be completed fully prior to submission. Like traditional unemployment, processing times are 21-30

days. Applicants who are approved or denied will be notified. There is not a need to call the department about your application, if there are questions about your claim the department will contact you.

Is PUA also eligible for the additional \$300 a week benefit?

Yes; but, only during the time period of Dec. 27, 2020, through Jun 26, 2021. There is no additional action you need to take beyond filing your weekly claims as long as you remain eligible for unemployment benefits. Eligibility for the \$300 weekly benefit will automatically be considered during the eligible time period.

Can I receive all 79 weeks of benefits if I apply now?

No. Retroactive eligible weeks are limited for applications filed from Dec. 27, 2020, forward to the week beginning Dec. 6, 2020. Also the program expires for all individuals, regardless of the number of weeks claimed, on June 26, 2021.

Who is eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits?

PUA is a benefit for those who were working and are now out of work, and were/are self-employed, or others whose employment or employer does not contribute taxes towards traditional unemployment, such as independent contractors and those working for tax exempt institutions.

Those who are eligible for traditional unemployment benefits or extended unemployment benefits are not eligible for PUA benefits. If you were denied traditional unemployment benefits you should apply for PUA.

In addition, you must be unemployed as a direct result of COVID-19 to be considered for eligibility. Below are some examples:

- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19
- A member of your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- You are providing care to a household or family member who has been diagnosed with COVID-19

How do I know if I should apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) or traditional unemployment benefits?

If you are an employee working for an employer, in most instances you will need to apply for traditional unemployment. If you are self-employed you should apply for PUA. Only individuals who are out of work due to COVID-19 may be eligible for PUA.

Another resource available is the “[Am I Eligible?](#)” feature at jobs.utah.gov/ui/home. Any claimant can enter their Social Security Number: if it comes back with an eligible monetary decision of any amount, then you should apply for traditional unemployment; otherwise, ineligible decisions should apply for PUA benefits.

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
- If you were employed:
 - 2020/21 W-2s for all employers you worked for during that year
- If you were self-employed, all 2020/21 Form 1099s; AND Schedule C from your 2019/20 tax return OR one of the following:
 - All 2020/21 Form 1065s
 - General Ledger
 - Check Register
- Your State Driver License or Identification card, if you have one
- Your Alien Registration Documentation, if you are not a U.S. citizen but are legally authorized to work in the United States
- Your highest 2020/21 quarter earnings
 - If you are not able to provide this then you will need to take your total net (after deductions) earnings for 2020/21 and divide by 4

I am self-employed and I have not filed my 2020 or 2021 taxes but I am being asked to submit my 2020 or 2021 taxes as part of the application process. Is there anything else I can submit?

If you have not filed your 2020 or 2021 taxes, other documents you could submit are:

- Tax return form Schedule C
- Form 1099
- W-2
- Form 1065
- General Ledger
- Check Register

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.

Am I eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) if my work allows me to telework for pay?

No. If you have the ability to telework and be paid the same as you have customarily worked prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, then you are not eligible for PUA.

If I am receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave, am I eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)?

No, if you are on paid leave you are considered employed.

Will I need to file a weekly claim while receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)?

Yes, you will need to file weekly claims to receive weekly payments. Those weekly claims can be filed at the same location you filed your initial application. You must begin to file a weekly claim the Sunday following your initial claim and every week thereafter while you are unemployed.

What if I am receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and become eligible for a new traditional unemployment insurance claim?

If you are receiving PUA and become eligible for a new traditional unemployment insurance claim, you will no longer be eligible for PUA.

What information will I need to provide for my weekly claims for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits?

It is recommended you have the following information when you file:

- Your Social Security Number
- Current mailing address
- Gross wages earned during the week, if any
- Verification that you are actively looking for work

I forgot to enter something on my application or need to change some of the information on my application. How can I make those changes?

Please check your information carefully before submitting your application. You cannot make changes once it is submitted. If you need to make changes, please contact us. You can still upload documents after your application is submitted.

I forgot to upload documentation to my claim when I applied. How can I get the document submitted?

Log into jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utjobs/pua-login. Select the initial or weekly claim you need to upload documents for. Then select the upload tab and upload the additional documents.

Once I click the submit button, how do I know my application has been submitted?

You can see the status of your application at the bottom of the page. Once you have logged out, you can return to this page by logging into jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker and selecting the “Pandemic UI” link.

What is the status of my claim?

It takes 21-30 days to receive payment if approved. Once approved you will receive a check in the mail. You can check the status of your claim by signing into jobs.utah.gov/jsp/utjobs/pua-login. Select “Pandemic UI” and scroll down to see the status of your claim.

How will I receive my payments?

Payments will be issued by paper checks. Payments by direct deposit or Utah debit card will not be available for PUA at this time.

Am I required to look for work?

Yes, to be eligible for unemployment benefits, including PUA, you must actively look for work. As of Sept. 27, 2020, unless you have a qualifying COVID-19 deferral reasons, you are required to both register for work and make a good faith effort to obtain employment.

You should make at least four new full-time job contacts each week. A job contact means a reasonable contact or action where a clear path to re-employment can be demonstrated, such as filling out an application, submitting a resume, networking, attending job related workshops, or interviews.

A new contact means contacting an employer you have not contacted before, or contacting a previously contacted employer on a newly listed job opening. You are required to keep a detailed record of your work search activities. You may be selected at any time for an audit or eligibility review during which you will be asked to provide this information. Your record of employer contacts should include the following:

- Date of contact

- Name of company or other identifying information, such as job reference number
- Company address, phone number, email, web link, or person contacted
- Position title
- Method of contact
- Results of contact