



Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) 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 Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation program (MEUC) on June 26, 2021.

What is the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC)?

MEUC is a program that allows individuals who are filing for traditional unemployment benefits and receiving the newly added \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC, commonly known as the \$300 stimulus) to also apply to receive an additional \$100 of weekly benefits if they had and then lost at least \$5,000 of self-employed income in the tax year prior to when they opened their regular unemployment claim.

Can I go back and get MEUC for the unemployed weeks I filed for in 2020?

No. MEUC is only available to individuals who are receiving the new FPUC amount of \$300. The new FPUC and MEUC programs are only available to eligible claimants for the time period of Dec. 27, 2020, through June 26, 2021.

If I was not self-employed, am I eligible for MEUC and should I apply?

No. This is a limited-eligibility program and if you were not previously self-employed you are not eligible for the benefit and should not apply.

How much self-employment income do I need to have to qualify for MEUC?

To qualify for MEUC, you need to have earned at least \$5,000 in self employment income during the most recently completed year prior to you applying for traditional unemployment benefits.

Per DOL guidance, income is defined as:

The term “self-employment income” means the net earnings from self-employment derived by an individual ...during any taxable year.

In other words, your self-employment income is what you have or will submit to the IRS as your self-employment income. This reported income that was lost must be at least \$5,000 in the most recently completed year.

What is considered self-employed income?

Section 261 of the Continued Assistance Act defines self-employment income by reference to Section 1402(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (IRC) (26 U.S.C. 1402(b)), which generally provides:

The term “self-employment income” means the net earnings from self-employment derived by an individual ...during any taxable year.

For the definition of “net earnings from self-employment,” refer to Section 1402(a), IRC, which provides that this includes “the gross income derived by an individual from any trade or business carried on by such individual, less the deductions allowed by this subtitle which are attributable to such trade or business, plus his/her distributive share (whether or not distributed) of income or loss described in section 702(a)(8) from any trade or business carried on by a partnership of which he/she is a member.”

What documentation is required?

Individuals who apply for MEUC are required to submit documentation substantiating their self-employment income for purposes of the state determining their eligibility for MEUC.

If available, individuals must provide a copy of the income tax return for the most recent taxable year ending prior to the individual’s application for traditional unemployment benefits to substantiate their self-employment income for purposes of establishing eligibility for MEUC. If the tax return is not available because you have not yet filed taxes for the applicable year, you can submit alternative documentation.

Acceptable alternative documentation of self-employment income includes, but is not limited to, pay check stubs, bank receipts, business records, ledgers, contracts, invoices, and billing statements that substantiate self-employment income of at least \$5,000 during the most recent taxable year ending prior to your application for traditional unemployment benefits.

How can I apply for MEUC?

When you file your weekly claim for traditional unemployment benefits, you will be asked if you wish to apply for MEUC. You will only be asked this once and it will occur at your next continued claim. If you answer yes, you will be given instructions for submitting the required documentation.

If you received an unemployment benefit during the MEUC eligibility time period of Dec. 27, 2020, through June 26, 2021, but are no longer actively filing continued claims, you will be contacted by the department to notify you of the program and offer you the option to apply.

If you cannot file your weekly claim online, or you want to be considered for MEUC for weeks you received unemployment benefits during the time period of Dec. 27, 2020, through June 26, 2021, please contact the unemployment claims center.

What if I did not receive unemployment benefits during that time period, am I eligible for MEUC and should I apply?

No. MEUC is a temporary program that is only available to individuals who received a traditional unemployment benefit from the time period of Dec. 27, 2020, through June 26, 2021. If you did not receive a traditional unemployment benefit during this time period, you should not apply for MEUC as you are not eligible.

If I am receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), am I eligible for MEUC?

No. MEUC is for mixed earners — individuals who received both covered wages and self-employment wages. The PUA program is for individuals who did not have covered wages, therefore individuals on PUA are not eligible for MEUC.