



How to access information on “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)”



Visit the EDD Website

WWW.EDD.CA.GOV

Select "Claims"



Jobs

Find job services and training available to you.



Claims

File a claim for unemployment, disability, or paid family leave benefits.



Employers

Manage your tax account and find important resources to succeed.

Next, select the “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance” link

Claims

[En español](#)

The EDD manages the Unemployment Insurance (UI) and State Disability Insurance (SDI) programs for the State of California.

SDI includes Disability Insurance (DI), Paid Family Leave (PFL), and the Nonindustrial Disability Insurance (NDI) programs. NDI includes DI and Family Care Leave (FCL).

Claimants and employers must understand their roles and responsibilities in making sure that information is reported accurately and the correct benefits are paid. Committing fraud has serious outcomes. Learn more on [Fraud and Penalties: What You Need to Know](#) or review our [Recent Fraud Convictions](#).

EDD Related Programs: [Unemployment](#) | [Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave](#)

UI OnlineSM Tip

Due to current events, we are experiencing a large increase in claims filed and are extending our staff resources to keep up with the demand. For faster service, use [UI Online](#) to file your claim, certify for benefits, and get payment information. You can also ask questions about your claim using UI Online by selecting **Contact Us** at the top of your homepage.

Thank you for your patience.

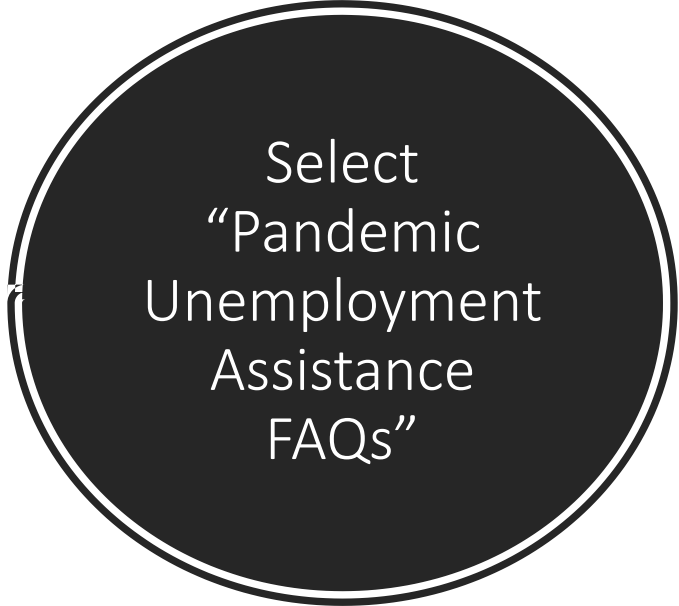
[Access COVID-19 Resources](#)

Unemployment Insurance

- [UI Overview](#)
- [File a New UI Claim](#)
- [Reopen an Existing UI Claim](#)
- [UI Benefit Calculator](#)
- [Certifying for Unemployment Benefits](#)
- [California Training Benefits](#)
- [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#)

Disability Insurance

- [Disability Insurance \(DI\) Overview](#)
- [Am I Eligible for DI Benefits?](#)
- [Options to File for DI Benefits \(Online or by Mail\)](#)
- [How to File a DI Claim in SDI Online](#)
- [Disability Insurance Claim Process](#)
- [DI FAQs](#)
- [SDI for State Employees](#)



Select “Pandemic Unemployment Assistance FAQs”

Note: PUA applies to Californians who do not qualify for regular UI. If your UI claim was denied, you may be eligible for PUA.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

[En español](#)

[COVID-19 main page](#)

As part of the federal [CARES Act](#), the new Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program helps unemployed Californians who are business owners, self-employed, independent contractors, have limited work history, and others not usually eligible for regular state UI benefits who are out of business or services are significantly reduced as a direct result of the pandemic. The provisions of the program once operational include:

- Up to 39 weeks of benefits starting with weeks of unemployment beginning February 2, 2020, through the week ending December 26, 2020*, depending on when you became directly impacted by the pandemic.
- An additional \$600 to each PUA weekly benefit amount you may be eligible to receive, as part of the separate CARES Act Pandemic Additional Compensation program. Only the weeks of a claim between March 29 and July 25* are eligible for the extra \$600 payments.


* Under the CARES Act of 2020, the \$600 additional benefits are available through 07/31/20. However, the U.S. Department of Labor has issued guidance to clarify that, for most Californians, the last full week of benefits will end on 07/25/20. Similarly, the PUA program has a legislative end date of 12/31/20, but for Californians the last full week of benefits will end on 12/26/20.

Benefits can be retroactive to weeks starting on or after February 2, 2020, depending on your last day of work due to COVID-19 and regardless of when you submitted your claim application. The effective date of your claim will begin the Sunday of the week when you last worked and became unemployed due to reasons directly related to COVID-19.

Important Information

Note: Because this is a brand new program, each state will need time to develop all of the necessary system programming, forms, processes, and procedures. This page will be updated as information becomes available, including when and how to apply for these benefits. Once this new complex program is built and staffed, it will likely rival the size of the regular UI program the EDD already administers.

As we work to implement this new program, you can:

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- Review the [eligibility requirements](#) the federal government has prescribed in order to receive these federally paid benefits.
 - Visit the Labor Workforce Development Agency’s [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance FAQs](#) for more information.
 - Contact your local [America’s Job Center of CaliforniaSM](#) where EDD staff work with local partners to provide employment assistance. You could be eligible for [Supportive Services](#) funding to help you with basic needs.

Who qualifies for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

Individuals who do not otherwise qualify for unemployment, PFL, or disability, typically because they do not have sufficient W-2 income. W-2 employees who are denied UI can also apply for PUA.

- Business Owners
- Freelancers
- Independent Contractors
- Self-employed individuals

- Individuals without sufficient work history

- Individuals whose hours and/or salary were reduced due to COVID-19 (typically at least by 20%)

- Individuals who have exhausted their claims or any extended benefits

Note: The applicant will be asked to certify their job or work income loss is tied to the COVID-19 pandemic in a specific way.



THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (EDD)
WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR THE
PUA PROGRAM ON **TUESDAY, APRIL 28.**

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL/GUILD.