



Frequently asked Questions: Lost Wages Assistance (LWA)

1) What is Lost Wages Assistance?

Answer: A Presidential Memorandum signed on August 8, 2020, authorized a weekly \$300 supplemental payment for lost wages. The \$300 supplemental payment is in addition to an individual's weekly unemployment benefits payment.

2) Who is eligible to collect Lost Wages Assistance?

Answer: Individuals who certify that their total or partial unemployment was due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and also have a Weekly Benefit Amount of at least \$100 (with dependency allowance included, if applicable, and prior to tax deductions).

3) For which weeks can the Lost Wages Assistance supplemental payment be paid?

Answer: LWA supplemental payments are payable during the weeks ending August 1, 2020 to September 5, 2020; until the \$44 billion FEMA fund is exhausted; or termination of the LWA program, whichever is sooner. LWA supplemental payments may terminate earlier if the funds allocated to LWA payments are spent by participating states or the unobligated fund balance decreases to a certain level. LWA supplemental payments may terminate earlier if Congress enacts legislation that provides, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, supplemental federal pandemic unemployment compensation or similar compensation for unemployed or partially unemployed individuals.

4) The self-certification for the LWA program is only one time, but some weeks of unemployment covered by the program were due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, and some were not. So how do I answer the question – yes or no?

CTDOL recognizes that reasons for unemployment may vary week to week. However, the LWA program requires only one certification. Accordingly, it is important that you answer truthfully to the question as to whether or not you are unemployed, at the time of answering the certification, due to a disruption caused by COVID-19. If you are no longer unemployed and filing for back weeks when you were unemployed, please answer this question YES if you were unemployed during the back weeks due to COVID-19.

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5) How do I apply for Lost Wages Assistance?

Answer: If you were previously approved for Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PUA) benefits then you are preapproved and do not need to apply because it was already determined that your total or partial unemployment was due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. All other claimants will need to certify that their total or partial unemployment was due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. To certify for LWA visit our website at: www.FileCTUI.com (1) Click the green button "Current Claims"; (2) Log on to your account by entering your user ID and password; (3) From the Main Menu screen click the "Certify for LWA" button. You may then certify for LWA by submitting a "Yes" answer to the question asking if your total or partial unemployment was due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. You may certify for LWA Monday through Friday, from 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M., or on Sunday from 12:00 A.M. – 11:00 P.M.

6) If a determination of eligibility for a prior week of unemployment is not made until after the Lost Wages Assistance program is terminated, will LWA be paid for that week?

Answer: The LWA program will terminate once one of the termination provisions describe in question 3 is met; no further LWA will be payable at that point. An individual whose eligibility status is determined after this end date is not entitled to LWA for weeks of unemployment occurring before the end date.

7) Are Lost Wages Assistance payments subject to federal and state income tax?

Answer: Yes. LWA is subject to both federal and state income tax.

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