



CT DEPT. OF LABOR REMINDS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS EXPIRATION; PROVIDES UNEMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS AND TRUST FUND NUMBERS UPDATES

(WETHERSFIELD, CT) – Connecticut Department of Labor (CTDOL) Commissioner Kurt Westby today released agency updates and reminded claimants that the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) programs will end on December 26, 2020 unless federal action is taken to authorize funding or prevent the expiration of the CARES Act.

Commissioner Westby said, “This pandemic has thrown hundreds of thousands of residents off a fiscal cliff; it’s critical that the federal government authorize emergency relief quickly. In Connecticut, the CARES Act funds the CTDOL Consumer Contact Center, which is helping about 27,000 customers per week, and two unemployment benefit programs that together serve about 70,000 residents. All are at risk right now, particularly the 35,000 PUA claimants—most of whom don’t have an alternative unemployment program to turn to. Quick action in Washington will help us get this much-needed relief out to residents.”

Without federal action, the expiration of the 39-week PUA program will impact about 35,000 residents in Connecticut. Most PUA claimants will not have eligibility for the Extended Benefits program and will lose unemployment as a source of income. CTDOL has notified PUA claimants related to the program expiration.

Since March 13, 2020, CTDOL has received 62,000 PUA applications and disbursed \$374 million in PUA benefits.

The federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program offered an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance to claimants who exhausted their 26-week state unemployment benefits. Over the past few weeks, CTDOL has notified more than 29,000 PEUC recipients that they have exhausted these benefits and will notify another 35,000 claimants that they will lose benefits when the program expires on December 26, 2020. The agency is urging them to apply for Extended Benefits and expects most of them to be eligible.

Since March 13, 2020, CTDOL has received more than 108,000 PEUC applications and paid out \$313 million in PEUC benefits.

CTDOL is working with state and federal officials to preserve the [Consumer Contact Center](#), which was established in mid-July with \$4 million from the state’s Coronavirus Relief Fund using federal CARES Act funding. Contact Center staff handle about 27,000 cases per week.

UNEMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS UPDATE

- Since March 13, 2020, CTDOL has received more than 1,150,000 state, federal, and extended benefits applications
- Currently, there are around 181,000 weekly filers
- Application processing time, which hit a high of six weeks during the pandemic, is now at 1-3 days

TRUST FUND

To date, the state has borrowed \$402M for the Trust Fund. Current spending is above \$20M per week.

Since March 13, 2020, CTDOL has disbursed:

- \$351M in Lost Wages Assistance (effective July 26, 2020 and ending on September 5, 2020);
- \$3B in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)—expired July 25, 2020; and
- More than \$6B in state, federal, and extended unemployment benefits:
 - \$2B in state unemployment benefits;
 - \$374M in Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - for anyone who is not able to collect regular unemployment benefits, ex: self-employed or people without enough earnings to qualify;
 - \$313M Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) – for individuals who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits;
 - \$3.4M in state extended benefits; and
 - \$63M in federal extended benefits.

Customers with questions about unemployment eligibility or benefits should visit www.FileCTUI.com for information, Contact Center numbers, and to apply for benefits.

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