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Extended Benefits (EB)

What are Extended Benefits (EB)?
Extended Benefits (EB) are available to workers who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits during periods of high statewide unemployment. Individuals must first exhaust their Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC, the 13-week federal extension of benefits) before being potentially eligible for the seven additional weeks of Extended Benefits. Connecticut’s EB period began on April 26, 2020 and will end on December 12, 2020.

My 13-week extension of benefits (PEUC) will expire soon. Will I be automatically be eligible for Extended Benefits under the Federal-State Extended Benefits?
No. The eligibility requirements for both programs are different. You can only be found eligible for EB if you have a Benefit Year that ends after 5/1/2020, AND:

• You are totally or partially unemployed;
• You have exhausted all rights to Unemployment Insurance under state law;
• You have exhausted all Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) entitlement, and are not eligible for regular UI benefits against any state or eligible for benefits from Canada;
• You meet the eligibility requirements of the law and are not disqualified; and
• You are monetarily eligible – you have been paid wages by an employer subject to the Connecticut Unemployment Compensation Act during the base period of your applicable benefit year and at least one of the following applies to those wages --- they are (1) in an amount at least forty-times your weekly benefit amount (WBA), including dependency allowances, (2) in an amount at least 1 ½ times your highest base-period quarter in total base-period wages; or (3) for at least 20 different weeks of employment in the base-period.

I’m on the 13-week federal extension right now (PEUC). Do I need to re-apply for EB?
Yes. When your PEUC benefits are exhausted, you will be mailed a letter with instructions on how to file an application for EB on www.filectui.com via the green button.
What happens when EB is scheduled to end?
Claimants will be notified when EB is scheduled to end. Under federal law, no EB can be paid for weeks following the end date of the program.

Will claimants file weekly certifications for EB as they do for regular UI and for PEUC?
Yes, claimants will file online, using the continued claims options.

Does EB have special disqualifications?
Yes, failure to meet the EB work search requirements or to accept suitable work results in a denial of further benefits until the claimant has worked in at least four weeks and earns four times his or her WBA. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor has temporarily suspended the requirement for work search efforts. Claimants will be notified when they will be required to begin making reasonable work search efforts.

Am I eligible to receive EB if I live in another state?
Claimants residing in another state but collecting benefits from CT are eligible for two weeks of EB unless the state in which they reside is also on EB and then they would be potentially eligible for the full 13 weeks.

Are EB payments considered income and taxable?
Yes. EB payments are taxable and are eligible for voluntary withholding.

What are High Extended Benefits (HEB)?
High Extended Benefits are an additional seven weeks of Extended Benefits that are payable when the state is in a High Unemployment Period. The seven weeks of HEB are in addition to the 13 weeks of benefits available through EB.

For how long is High Extended Benefits in effect?
The High Unemployment Period is triggered on when the three-month average of the state unemployment rate is at or above 8.0%. Connecticut’s High Unemployment Period began on August 2, 2020 and will end on December 12, 2020.

How does this affect my benefits?
Under federal law, the additional seven weeks of HEB can only be paid during a High Unemployment Period. This means that anyone who has received at least thirteen weeks of Extended Benefits as of the week ending December 12, 2020 will not be entitled to receive High Extended Benefits past that date, even those claimants who have not used all seven weeks. Anyone who has received less than thirteen weeks of Extended Benefits as of week ending December 12, 2020 will still be entitled to receive the remainder of their thirteen weeks of Extended Benefits entitlement. This change in entitlement will be reflected in the Remaining Claim Balance when performing a Claim Inquiry or when viewing the Payment History.