FAQs– FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE STIMULUS PROGRAMS:

On March 27, 2020, President signed into law the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020 (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program), Public Law (Pub. L.) 116-136, which contains three Unemployment Insurance (UI) stimulus programs directed towards individuals who find themselves partially or totally unemployed due COVID-19.

CTDOL is planning on commencing these programs in the very near future. Please see dates individual to the specific programs.

I. Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)

Implementation of the weekly $600 supplemental benefit is expected by April 25, 2020, with payments beginning by April 27, 2020.

Once you begin receiving increased weekly payments, you can expect a subsequent lump sum payment with all retroactive weeks within the next two weeks. This retroactive payment will date back to all eligible weeks that were filed since the FPUC program was enacted on March 29, 2020.

What is the FPUC?

This is a federally funded emergency increase in unemployment benefits which provides an additional $600 per week to individuals who receive a weekly benefit of at least $1 in the following unemployment benefits:

- Regular unemployment benefits
- Emergency unemployment benefits (PEUC)
- Extended Benefits
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) (while this program is retroactive to February 2, 2020, FPUC may only be paid back to 3/29/2020)
- Shared Work
- Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA)
- Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)
Will I receive this additional $600 every week?

This additional payment will be an additional benefit payment each week that you receive any of the benefits listed above, starting with week ending April 4, 2020 through week ending July 25, 2020. So, if your regular weekly benefit rate is $200, you will receive $800 that week. FPUC benefits will be paid retroactively to the first week the individual filed for benefits, subsequent to March 29, 2020.

As an employer, will I be charged for the additional $600 per week?

No. These additional $600 payments are 100% federally funded and will not be charged back to employers.

Do I need to apply separately for the additional $600 per week?

No. Individuals do not need to separately apply for FPUC.

Can the state take deductions from my additional $600 per week?

Yes. Child support obligations must be deducted from FPUC payments in the same way they are deducted from regular benefits. Also, up to 50% of the FPUC may be offset to capture overpayments owed to CTDOL or the federal government.

Are FPUC payments considered income which should be reported on my tax returns?

Similar to regular unemployment benefits, FPUC payments are taxable.

II. Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

CTDOL is expecting applications for PUA to be available by April 30, 2020

What is PUA and who is eligible for it?

PUA provides benefits to covered individuals, who are those individuals not eligible for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits under state or Federal law or pandemic emergency unemployment compensation (PEUC), including those who have exhausted all rights to such benefits. Covered individuals also include self-employed, those seeking part-time employment, individuals lacking sufficient work history, Peace Corps Volunteers whose service has been cut short due to COVID-19, and those who otherwise do not qualify for regular unemployment compensation or extended benefits under state or Federal law or PEUC.

How many weeks can I collect PUA?

Eligible individuals may receive up to 39 weeks of PUA benefits. Any weeks received for regular unemployment benefits or extended benefits must be deducted from the 39 weeks.
**What is the duration of the PUA Program?**

The PUA program runs from February 2, 2020 to December 26, 2020.

**If I receive PUA, am I also eligible for the additional $600 FPUC weekly benefit?**

Yes. Individuals found eligible for PUA will also be found eligible for the additional federally funded payment (FPUC) of $600 per week.

**Are PUA payments considered income and taxable?**

Yes. PUA payments are taxable.

**Will I need to file for regular benefits at [www.filectui.com](http://www.filectui.com) before filing for PUA?**

Yes. There are two steps to this process. First, individuals must apply for unemployment benefits at [www.filectui.com](http://www.filectui.com), to determine their eligibility for regular unemployment benefits. In order to be eligible for PUA, individuals must first be denied from being eligible to receive, or exhaust entitlement to regular unemployment benefits or any state or federal extended benefits. Second, once individuals have been denied, individuals must then file for regular PUA benefits in the PUA system.

**If I applied prior to April 30th, must I reapply?**

If you applied for regular UI benefits prior to PUA activation, you will not need to reapply for another regular UI benefit determination. However, you will need to apply for the federal PUA benefits when the system is built and receiving applications on/after April 30th. The federal stimulus/benefit will require documentation as to your earnings, as well as certifications as to other requirements. In addition, you will also be asked about the COVID-19 effect on your employment. Additional PUA-specific FAQs will be located on the PUA website within the next few days.

**Do I have to be able and available for work in order to be eligible for PUA?**

Individuals must be able and available to work unless they cannot work because of the specific circumstances that relate to COVID-19, including:

- The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis.
- A member of the individual’s household has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- The individual is providing care for a family member or a member of the individual’s household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work.
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- The individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The individual has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The individual has to quit his or her job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- The individual’s place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The individual meets any additional criteria established by the Secretary of US Department of Labor for unemployment assistance under the PUA program.

**Are PUA payments federally funded?**

Yes, similar to the other two Stimulus programs under the CARES Act, PUA payments are 100% federally funded.

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**III. Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)**

*To be available in the near future-- TBD*

**What is PEUC?**

A temporary federally-funded program, authorized under the CARES Act, that allows qualifying claimants to claim 13 weeks of emergency unemployment compensation due to the effects of coronavirus.

**Who qualifies for PEUC?**

Individuals who:

- have exhausted all rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) under state or Federal law (excluding any benefit year that ended before July 2019);
- have no rights to regular UC under any other state or Federal law;
- are not receiving compensation under the UC laws of Canada; and
- are able to work, available to work, and actively seeking work.

Eligibility for PEUC if will end when the individual qualifies for a new UC claim.

**Are PEUC payments federally funded?**

Similar to FPUC and PUA, this program is 100% federally funded.
**What is my weekly benefit amount (WBA) in the PEUC program?**

WBA is based on the regular UI claim.

**When does the program start and end?**

This program provides for up to 13 weeks of benefits beyond the customary 26 weeks to individuals who have exhausted regular unemployment benefits under state or federal law, starting week ending April 4, 2020 and ending December 26, 2020.

**Do I need to apply separately for the extra 13 weeks of unemployment?**

Yes. Individuals need to separately apply for PEUC.

**Are PEUC payments considered income and taxable?**

Yes. PEUC payments are taxable.

**If I receive PEUC, am I also eligible for the additional $600 FPUC weekly benefit?**

Yes. Individuals found eligible for PEUC will also be found eligible for the additional federally funded payment (FPUC) of $600 per week.