



Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Fact Sheet

The CARES Act established comprehensive supplementary unemployment insurance through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program. PUA makes unemployment benefits available exclusively to individuals that are unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are ineligible to receive UI.

Benefits may cover periods of unemployment up to 39 weeks and can be paid retroactively for periods of unemployment on, or after, January 27, 2020.

Individuals must apply for UI and be determined to be ineligible before they apply for PUA.

I am aware of reports of issues with state online application portals. I will continue to work with my colleagues to support state unemployment systems and ensure that PUA applications are accepted and processed as quickly as possible.

Who qualifies for PUA:

To qualify for PUA, individuals must not be able to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic and be ineligible for UI. This includes workers that don't typically qualify for regular unemployment compensation like Independent contractors, gig workers, self-employed individuals, and individuals with insufficient work history.

Individuals are ineligible if they can telework, are receiving sick leave, or receiving other paid leave benefits.

Average PUA benefits:

Benefits are based on your recent wages but vary from state to state. If you are a New York resident, the current maximum weekly benefit rate is \$504 weekly. The current minimum benefit rate for New York is \$172. These rates will change over time.

Duration of PUA benefits:

PUA benefits may cover up to 39 weeks of unemployment periods.

Benefits can be paid retroactively for periods of unemployment on, or after, January 27, 2020.

Apply for PUA:

If you are a New York State resident, you can apply at labor.ny.gov after you have been determined to be ineligible for UI.

New York residents can also call 1-888-209-8124 if they do not have access to a computer.