

**UNEMPLOYMENT
COMPENSATION/
የሰራ አጥነት ክፍያ AND
COVID-19**

**HOW TO FILE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT
IN PENNSYLVANIA**



በዋነኝነት በፔንሲልቬኒያ ለሚኖሩ የኢትዮጵያ ኮሚኒቲ ህብረተሰብ በኮሮና ቫይረስ ምክንያት በግልም ሆነ በቅጥር ለመስራት ባለመቻላቸው ገቢያቸውን ላጡ ግለሰቦች በመንግስት በኩል **(በfederal and State)** የቀረቡትን የገቢ እርዳታ **(unemployment compensation)** ክፍያዎችን አውቀው ተጠቃሚ እንዲሆኑ ለማድረግ የተዘጋጅ አጭር ማብራሪያ ነው።



CARES ACT: EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (Cares) act
 - The **CARES Act** expands existing **unemployment** benefits in two ways:
 - Provides an extra \$600 weekly payment
 - Provides up 13 weeks of **unemployment** benefits in addition to regular **unemployment** compensation (26 Weeks) and the 13-week **extension** of benefits is available through December 31, 2020
 - **Workers must meet these three qualifications:**
 - Partially or fully **unemployed**
 - Unable and unavailable to work because: They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or have symptoms of it and seeking diagnosis
 - Cannot telework or receive paid leave



UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION/

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- “Regular” Unemployment compensation (UC)
 - you have been laid off or workplace closed
 - your hours have been reduced through no fault of your own
 - you cannot work because a medical or public official has directed you to quarantine or self-isolate because of COVID-19 exposure, symptoms, or a positive diagnosis
 - you are caring for someone who is suspected of having or has tested positive for COVID-19
 - Your hours been reduced because of the public health crisis
 - You were fired when you refused to work in unsafe conditions
 - You quit to avoid unsafe conditions



UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION/

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- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
 - PEUC provides 13 weeks of additional unemployment benefits to qualified individuals whose regular (26 weeks) unemployment benefits were exhausted on or after July 6, 2019.
 - Payment backdate to week ending April 4, 2020
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
 - PUA covers individuals who are not eligible for traditional UI benefits, including the self-employed, those seeking part-time employment, individuals lacking sufficient work history, independent contractors, gig economy workers; and those who have exhausted their benefit eligibility under both traditional UI and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation.
- Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)
 - FPUC covers individuals currently receiving regular UI or PUA, and individuals eligible under PEUC (see above). In addition to regular UI or PUA benefits, eligible individuals will receive an additional \$600 per week; however, this additional benefit currently expires on July 25, 2020.

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

**RELIEF FOR WORKERS AFFECTED BY
CORONAVIRUS ACT**

**NEW UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PROGRAM
AVAILABLE TO WORKERS WHO ARE NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR REGULAR UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
(UC) AND UNABLE TO WORK AS A DIRECT RESULT
OF THE CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**



HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR PUA

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

RELIEF FROM [PUA Coverage Summary](#) BY CORONAVIRUS ACT

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides payment to workers not traditionally eligible for unemployment benefits (self-employed, independent contractors, workers with limited work history, and others) who are unable to work as a direct result of the coronavirus public health emergency.

COVERED

- Diagnosed with COVID-19 or with COVID-19 symptoms and seeking diagnosis
- Member of household has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- Providing care for family or household member diagnosed with COVID-19
- Primary caregiver for child unable to attend school or another facility closed due to COVID-19
- Unable to reach place of employment due to an imposed quarantine or because advised by medical provider to self-quarantine due to COVID-19
- Scheduled to commence new employment and cannot reach workplace as direct result of COVID-19
- Became major breadwinner because head of household died from COVID-19
- Quit job as a direct result of COVID-19
- Place of employment closed as a direct result of COVID-19
- Self-employed / Independent Contractors / 1099 filers / Farmers – and affected by COVID-19
- Seeking part-time employment but affected by COVID-19
- With insufficient work history and affected by COVID-19
- Otherwise not qualified for regular or extended UI benefits and affected by COVID-19

NOT COVERED

- Individuals that can telework with pay
- Individual receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits (regardless of meeting a category listed above)

PUA ELIGIBILITY DOCUMENTATION /

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PROOF OF SELF-EMPLOYMENT OR EMPLOYMENT

- Copies of recent paycheck stubs
- Bank receipts showing deposit
- 1099s for 2019
- Billing notices to customers
- Recent business ads
- Current business licenses, contracts or Invoices
- Building lease

PROOF OF INCOME

- Tax Returns (Schedule C)
- Paychecks stubs
- Bank receipts
- Ledgers
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Billing Statements

WHO CANNOT GET PUA?

- Undocumented workers
- Workers who have the ability to telework or were offered remote work--ለበሽታው ሳይጋለጡ እንዲሰሩ ከተፈቀደላቸው
- Individuals who are still employed full time but have lost their side business income
- Individuals who are collecting UC for regular employment but who also lost gig or side business income

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

- PUA provides 39 weeks of unemployment benefits (Beginning on February 2, 2020 until December 26, 2020). Weekly benefit range from \$195.00 to \$572.00 for PA
- Additional \$600 per week payment under the FPUC program- April to July. Paid biweekly \$1,200
- No Pin weekly filing required
- Email address required
- Backdate to the date a claimant lost work unlike UC
- Need to file your PUA certification Weekly to get paid—file any day Sunday to Friday
- Unemployment week is Sunday to Saturday
- Payment received within 3 business days
- Application processing time 3 weeks (21 Days)
- PUA system is still having issues processing some of the applications
- Unemployment income is taxable

INFORMATION YOU NEED TO FILE UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

- Your social security number
- Your most recent 30-day employer's name, address, phone number and dates of employment
- Your Alien Registration Number, if you are not a US Citizen
- Your DD214, if you are ex-military
- Direct Deposit Information
- Address, Phone#, Email and DOB
- Date of Stop Work- (Most of people stopped in March)
- Proof of Income document
- Proof of Employment document
- Your Standard Form 8 or Standard Form 50, if you are a former federal employee
- Severance pay information (only applicable if you did or will receive severance pay)
- Pension


FILING AN INITIAL CLAIM FOR PUA

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Pennsylvania's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Portal. At the top, there is a browser address bar with the URL <https://pua.benefits.uc.pa.gov/vosnet/default.aspx>. Below the address bar is a navigation menu with links for Edit, View, Favorites, Tools, and Help. The main header area features the Pennsylvania's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Portal logo on the left and a login section on the right. The login section includes input fields for Username and Password, a Sign In button, and links for Forgot Username/Password? and En Español. Below the header are two prominent blue buttons: File a PUA Claim and File Your PUA Weekly Certification. A large banner image follows, showing hands clasped over a keyboard with a semi-transparent overlay containing a shield icon with a dollar sign and the text "Pandemic Unemployment Assistance" and "PUA provides for individuals not eligible for regular unemployment". Below the banner is a section titled "Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)" with a paragraph of text explaining the program. At the bottom of this section are two buttons: Click here for PUA Claimant Guide and File a regular unemployment claim.

[Username](#) [Password](#) [Sign In](#)

[Forgot Username/Password?](#) [En Español](#)

[File a PUA Claim](#) [File Your PUA Weekly Certification](#)

 **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance**
PUA provides for individuals not eligible for regular unemployment

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

PUA provides up to 39 weeks of benefits to qualifying individuals who are otherwise able to work and available for work within the meaning of applicable state law, except that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work due to COVID-19 related reasons, as defined in the CARES Act. Benefit payments under PUA are retroactive, for weeks of unemployment, partial employment, or inability to work due to COVID-19 reasons starting on or after January 27, 2020. The CARES Act specifies that PUA benefits cannot be paid for weeks of unemployment ending after December 31, 2020.

[Click here for PUA Claimant Guide](#) [File a regular unemployment claim](#)