



PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA) Information Sheet

PUA -- Unemployment insurance designed for sole proprietors, 1099s, business owners, gig economy workers. New program – usually not eligible for unemployment.

www.edd.ca.gov

Application went live on Tuesday, April 28th

EDD Phone number **866-333-4606** (8 am – 5 pm)

Frequently Asked Questions:

https://edd.ca.gov/about_edd/coronavirus-2019/pandemic-unemployment-assistance/faqs.htm

Forms:

https://www.edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Forms_and_Publications.htm

Fastest way to apply is [UI Online](#). OK by phone but expect delays and long wait times. Fax and mail is allowable but not encouraged.

If you applied to general unemployment insurance prior to 4/28/20, you MUST reapply to PUA

PUA:

- Provides 39 weeks of benefits between 02/02/2020 and 12/26/20.
- 13 week extension doesn't apply because it's woven into the program.
- No waiting period.
- Claims are automatically backdated to the Sunday prior to the first date the claimant was directly impacted by COVID-19.
- Can only go back as far as 02/02/2020 to coincide with the effective date of the program. (For CA, most were impacted in mid-Mar.)
- Minimum weekly benefit amount is \$167. (Everyone gets this.)
- Claimants need to report their 2019 ***net*** income when filing. (Estimates are fine.)
- To be considered for a higher WBA up to \$450, verifiable income documentation will be required.
 - Still working on process to get docs to EDD, but will make it retroactive to the date the claim began.
- \$600 weekly stimulus applies but only between 3/29/20 and 7/25/20.
- EDD will automatically certify all weeks ending between 3/14/2020 and 05/09/20 to expedite payment processing.
 - If wages are earned during this time, must report using Ask EDD (online tool).
- Payments will be made through the EDD Debit Card; allow at least 5 business days for mail time once the first payment is authorized.

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce

554 W. Lancaster Blvd. Lancaster, CA 93534

(661) 948-4518 www.LancasterChamber.org

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Helpful Hints:

- Can be a bit difficult to know whether you are applying for PUA as it isn't prominent on application
- Be sure to answer NO to the following question if you are self-employed/1099, etc.

If you worked today, you should indicate the name of the employer you worked for today **BUSINESS OWNER, SELF-EMPLOYED, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR OR GIG WORKER**: If you had no employment(i.e. if you did not receive a W-2) in the last 18 months and are applying for PUA, then click **No** below.

- There is an option to save application draft; keep doing this throughout in case system freezes, etc.
- Don't forget to refresh the page
- You might get an error/not available at this time announcement. The system is also knocking people off and asking them to try back in one hour.
- Answer no to Question 7 – Have you been employed in the last 18 months. If you made a mistake on this question on a previous application, EDD is reporting there is no need to go back and fix this on your end. The system has been corrected.
- If you have an existing UI account, you don't need to open up a new one in order to apply for PUA
- Net income is gross income minus all allowable deductions by the IRS, including rent, gas, phone bills, etc. Bottom line, it's what you pay taxes on. Again, an estimate is OK here.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **I filed previously and received a letter stating I had zero benefits afforded to me. I understand now that when I filed the system was not set up for self-employed claims. Should I open a new claim or update my existing claim?** Yes, please. EDD will automatically backdate your claim to the Sunday preceding the first date your business/employment was impacted by COVID-19. However, PUA claims can't begin any earlier than 02/02/2020.
- **If I file a new claim, should I cancel my existing claim?** No. EDD updated the system to allow you to submit a new claim without canceling the previous one.

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