Claimant

Guide for Applying for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) After Exhausting Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
Overview:

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides benefits to those not ordinarily eligible for Reemployment Assistance. This includes individuals who are self-employed, independent contractors, those who are not eligible for state Reemployment Assistance benefits or extended benefits under state or Federal law, or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). Individuals who have exhausted their state Reemployment Assistance claim and PEUC claim may be eligible for PUA if they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work due to one of the COVID-19 related reasons listed in section 2102(a)(3)(A)(ii)(I) of the CARES Act. These COVID-19 reasons include:

- 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; or
- The individual’s place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

What happens once you have exhausted your state Reemployment Assistance benefits and PEUC benefits?

Individuals who have exhausted their state Reemployment Assistance and their PEUC benefits and may be eligible for Extended Benefits will receive the opportunity to apply for PUA in their CONNECT account.

How do I know if I’m eligible for PUA?

To be eligible for PUA, the individual must self-certify that they are unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable for work due to one of the COVID-19 related reasons listed above. If the individual’s employment separation is not due to one of the reasons listed above, they will not be eligible for PUA.
How do I complete the PUA Application?

The PUA application is similar to the state Reemployment Assistance application, but there are some differences. The PUA application will contain some of the information you provided when you completed your state Reemployment Assistance Application. For example, the PUA application will have your contact information, your preferred payment method, and employment history. You may add or edit your information while you’re filling out your PUA application.

1- Visit FloridaJobs.org and select “Claimants” in the top right hand corner or click here to access the CONNECT homepage.

2- Read the Claimant Warning Notice and select “I acknowledge I have read the above.” And then click “Next.”

3- Enter your Social Security Number or Claimant ID and PIN. Then select “Log-in.”
4- Once you have successfully logged-in to your CONNECT account, you will notice a link in the left margin of your CONNECT homepage directing you to apply for PUA Benefits. Select the link “Apply for PUA Benefits.”

5- Next, you will be asked if you are filing because your employment was impacted by COVID-19 and you must select which county you worked, were scheduled to work, or were prevented from traveling through to reach your place of employment. After completing, select “Next.”

6- You will also be asked what your primary occupation is. Individuals who are W-2 workers may select the option that says, “I work for another person or employer as an employee.” Select the option that best describes your employment.

7- You will then be asked to indicate whether you were working at the time of the pandemic or if you were not working but were scheduled to begin work. If either scenario applies to you, you will need to indicate what date you last worked or the date you were scheduled to begin work. Select which scenario best applies to you.
8- Next, you will be asked to **select which one of the COVID-19 reasons best applies to your employment situation.** If none of the reasons apply to you, you will not be eligible for PUA.

   * 3. (a) Currently I am able to work and available to work but for (select the statement that best applies to you)
      - ○ I am unemployed because I was diagnosed with COVID-19.
      - ○ I am unemployed because I am experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking a medical diagnosis.
      - ○ I am unemployed because I am providing care to a family member or member of my household who has been diagnosed COVID-19.
      - ○ I am unemployed because I am the primary caregiver to a child or other person in the household who can’t attend school or another facility because the facility is closed as a direct result of COVID-19, and I am unable to work because of the facility closure.
      - ○ I am unemployed because I am unable to reach my place of employment due to a public health emergency imposed a quarantine.
      - ○ I am unemployed because I am unable to reach my place of employment because I was advised to self-quarantine by a health care provider.
      - ○ I was scheduled to start work but am unable to reach the job or no longer have the job as a direct result of COVID-19.
      - ○ I have become the breadwinner or major support of a household because the head of household died as a direct result of the COVID-19.
      - ○ I had to quit my job as a direct result of COVID-19.
      * 5. Place of employment closed as a direct result of COVID-19.

9- Next, you will be asked if you are currently able to telework and then you will be asked if your employer offered you the ability to telework. If you have the ability to telework, you may not be eligible for PUA. Select “Yes” or “No.”

10- You will then be asked to describe how the pandemic caused you to be unemployed. Please type the reason into the space provided.

11- Next, you will be asked to select which county you worked, were scheduled to work, or were prevented from traveling through to reach your place of employment. Please note that this is the same question that was asked at the beginning of the PUA application.
12- You will then be asked a series of questions regarding your employment. You must identify all work that ended due to the pandemic and all work you were scheduled to start but was delayed or cancelled due to the pandemic. You should only list the employers in which your employment was impacted by the pandemic.

Then confirm that all employers listed are affected by the pandemic are displayed and selected above. Select “Next.”

*Note: If there is an employer or scheduled employment with an employer not listed above but was affected by the pandemic, select “Add the employer.”

It is important to note that the base period for PUA is different than the base period for state Reemployment Assistance and PEUC. The base period for PUA is the most recent tax year, which is the 2019 calendar year. This means your employment from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, will be used to determine your PUA weekly benefit amount. Your income information for the most recently completed tax year is needed to determine your PUA weekly benefit amount. If you are a W-2 worker with covered employment, your wages reported by your employer to the Department of Revenue during the PUA base period should populate if you have wages reported during that timeframe.
13-You will be asked to select which tax form you used to file your Federal income tax return for the most recent tax year. If you do not have your tax documents or have not filed your Federal income tax return, you may select the option stating that you do not have the records at this time or that you have not filed your tax returns. You will also be asked if you filed your income tax return jointly.

Note: If you are a W-2 employee and have wages for covered employment that have been reported to the Department of Revenue, you may not need to provide proof of income documentation. If you have reported wages, these wages will show in the screen titled “Base Period Employers” which is shown directly above.

14-If you indicated that you filed your Federal income tax return, you will be asked to enter your income and loss as it’s reported on your Federal tax form.

NOTE: You will not get the screen directly below if you indicated that you did not file your tax return or that you do not have your tax records. If you are an employee for employment that is not covered by Reemployment Assistance laws and you do not provide the Department with your income documentation, you will only receive the PUA minimum weekly benefit amount, which is $125. If you are an employee, you may submit your tax return or W-2 from 2019.
15- Next, you will be prompted with a set of questions that are also asked on the state Reemployment Assistance application. You should answer the questions by selecting yes or no as it pertains to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eligibility Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge to determine your eligibility:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Are you enrolled in or attending school?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Have you refused or turned down any specific job offer since you became unemployed?</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Since you became unemployed, were you referred to a job by a CareerSource Center and refused/told to accept the referral?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Did you perform services as a professional athlete for any employer since Tuesday, January 1, 2019?</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Have you applied for or are you receiving payments from a pension fund, annuity fund, or retirement account other than Social Security?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6a. Temporary layoff?</td>
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<td>6b. Permanent layoff?</td>
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<td>7. Have you received or expect to receive severance or other payments due to separation from employment? From the list below, select the employer(s) issuing payment(s): severance, wages in lieu of notice, or any other separation payments in connection with a separation from employment that occurred after Tuesday, January 1, 2019?</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Are you seeking only part-time work?</td>
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<td>9a. Union Name:</td>
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<td>9b. Hiring Hall Number:</td>
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<td>9c. Phone Number:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Have you accepted a job offer with a new employer?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10a. If Yes, enter the date that you will begin working: [ ] [ ] (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
16- You will then be asked to acknowledge a series of certification statements.

**Fraud Acknowledgement**

I certify that the information I have provided is correct and that I have supplied the information voluntarily, in order to obtain Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). PUA benefits are federal funds that have been provided to states for the purpose of providing temporary assistance to unemployed individuals who are unable to work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I understand that willful misrepresentation or concealment of material facts to obtain assistance payments to which you are not entitled to receive.

**Potential Eligibility in Another State**

I understand that if I am eligible for Unemployment Insurance benefits in Florida, I may also be eligible for benefits in another state. I understand that if I am not able to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits in Florida, I may be able to receive benefits in another state(s).

**Requesting Benefit Payments**

I understand the following:

- I am required to request benefit payments for each week I wish to receive benefits.
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits are payable only if all eligibility criteria are met including filing continued claims as instructed for the weeks I am unemployed or partially unemployed due to the pandemic.
- If there is a pending issue on my appeal on my claim, I must continue requesting benefit payments in order to be paid for those weeks if I am later determined to be eligible.

**Reporting Income**

I understand that if I do any work for any reason, including military reserve drill pay or self-employment, I must report the total gross wages earned (before taxes), whether or not I have been paid when I request benefit payments for that week.

**Work Search Requirements**

I understand that I will be required to self-certify each week regarding my eligibility regarding work search. I understand that failure to comply may result in disqualification of benefits.

**Verification of Earnings**

I understand that I must provide documentation for earnings within 21 calendar days from the date I file my claim.

**Benefit Rights Information**

I understand it is my responsibility to read the Benefit Rights Information which explains my rights and responsibilities while collecting Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). A link to the Benefit Rights Information is included at the end of this application and on my account homepage.
Lastly, you will be presented with a summary screen to review your answers, and you may modify any of your previous answers. After you have reviewed your answers, you will need to click the submit button to complete your PUA application.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - Review and Confirm Application

To complete your application you must do the following:
- Review your entries.
- To make changes, select the Modify button within a section.
- Re-enter your Social Security Number to verify your identity.
- Select the Submit button, and wait for the confirmation screen.

Identity Verification
Please verify your identity by re-entering your Social Security Number.
- I have answered all questions fully and truthfully. I know there are penalties for giving false information. I know that to receive benefits I must meet the eligibility requirements.
- Social Security Number: [Redacted]

National Emergency
- You are filing as a result of COVID-19: [Redacted]
- The county in which you worked, were scheduled to work, or the county you were prevented from traveling through in order to reach your place of employment: [Redacted]

Florida Reemployment Assistance Way2Go Debit Card Fee Schedule
- I have reviewed the Florida Reemployment Assistance Way2Go Debit Card Fee Schedule and understand that if I choose Florida Reemployment Assistance Way2Go Debit Card as my payment method and use the above services that I will be responsible for any fees charged for those services.

PLEASE CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON THIS PAGE CAREFULLY AND CORRECT ANY MISTAKES BEFORE SUBMITTING.
What happens after I submit my PUA application?

After you submit your PUA application, you will receive a PUA monetary determination. This will indicate what your weekly benefit amount is. You will need to request your benefit payments every two weeks, and this process is the same as when you requested your benefits for your state Reemployment Assistance claim and your PEUC claim.

If you have any questions, please visit FloridaJobs.org to watch a video on how to understand your Reemployment Assistance claim status or call our Reemployment Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-833-FL-APPLY (1-833-352-7759) to learn more.