

Applying for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

Administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity



What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides assistance to individuals whose employment has been either lost or interrupted as a direct result of COVID-19 and those not ordinarily eligible for state Reemployment Assistance. This includes individuals who are gig workers, self-employed or contract employees.

PUA will provide individuals with up to \$275 per week in benefits. PUA provides up to 39 weeks of benefits from February 2, 2020 through December 26, 2020.

Eligibility Requirements

You may be eligible for PUA if, you are not eligible for regular Reemployment Assistance or other state or federal Reemployment benefits and you are otherwise able and available to work except that you are unemployed, partially employed because of one of the following COVID-19 reasons:

- You have been diagnosed with or are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and are seeking a medical diagnosis;
- A member of your household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- You are providing care for a family member or a member of your household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;
- Your child or other person in the household for whom you are the primary caregiver is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that school or facility care is required for you to work;
- You are unable to reach your place of employment because of a quarantine or stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- You are unable to reach your place of employment because you have been advised by a health care provider to self-isolate or quarantine because you are positive for or may have had exposure to someone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19;
- You were scheduled to start a new job and do not have an existing job or are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- You have become the breadwinner/major supporter for a household because the head of your household has died as a direct result of COVID-19;
- You had to quit your job due to being diagnosed with COVID-19 and being unable to perform your work duties;
- Your place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- You are an independent contractor and the COVID-19

The following information is required when filing:

- Social Security number.
- Alien registration number and expiration date (non-U.S. citizen).
- Name and address of employer affected by the disaster.

Reminder

You must complete an application for state Reemployment Assistance benefits before applying for PUA. During the application you will be asked if you were impacted by COVID-19. Your Reemployment Assistance claim will then be determined for eligibility. If you are determined ineligible or your state and federal Reemployment Assistance benefits have been exhausted, you will then be prompted to file a PUA application.

How to Apply

**I have not applied for
Reemployment Assistance**

**I applied for
Reemployment Assistance
on or before April 4, 2020**

**I applied on or
after April 5, 2020**

Apply at
FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication

You're all set
Wait to hear from
DEO

For general information about Reemployment Assistance, visit FloridaJobs.org or call 1-833-FL-APPLY (1-833-352-7759). Phone hours: Mon. through Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) FAQs

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What is Pandemic Unemployment Assistance?

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Am I eligible for PUA?

You may be eligible for PUA if, you are not eligible for regular Reemployment Assistance or other state or federal Reemployment benefits and you are otherwise able and available to work except that you are unemployed, partially employed because of one of the COVID-19 reasons listed in the CARES Act. This includes individuals who are gig workers, self-employed or contract employees. The CARES Act reasons are listed above.

How do I file a claim?

You must complete an application for Reemployment Assistance benefits before filing for PUA. To complete your application, you can file your claim online at [FloridaJobs.org/RAApplication](https://www.floridajobs.org/RAApplication). You must file for state Reemployment Assistance benefits before filing for PUA. During the application process, you will be asked if you were impacted by COVID-19. Your Reemployment Assistance claim will then be determined for eligibility. If you are determined ineligible or your regular Reemployment Assistance benefits or other state or federal benefits have been exhausted, you will then be prompted in CONNECT to file a PUA application. If you applied for Reemployment Assistance before on April 4, 2020, you must submit another application.

What should I keep in mind when filing a PUA claim?

You must report all earnings. If you are paid by your employer during your absence from work or if you return to work, you must report these earnings. Paid sick leave, vacation pay or other paid leave must also be reported.

Proof of income that substantiates you are eligible to receive more than the PUA \$125 weekly benefit amount may be provided during the Pandemic Assistance Period. You can upload this information while completing your PUA application, fax the income documentation to 1-800-222-7934 or mail them to PUA Unit P.O. Box 5350 Tallahassee, FL 32314. Income documentation may include your annual tax return, 1099 forms, W-2s, pay stubs, or other documents that show your net income for the 2019 tax year.

How long will it take before I receive my benefits?

PUA benefits are payable once proof of employment and wages is received, verified and it is determined that your unemployment was a direct result of COVID-19. Each claim must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Our goal is to ensure a determination is made as quickly as possible in your time of need.

How many weeks can I receive?

If you are eligible for PUA, you will be paid weekly benefits in accordance with federal and state regulations. The PUA benefit duration may last up to 39 weeks, with up to \$275 in weekly benefits. The CARES Act Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) also provides eligible individuals with \$600 per week in addition to the weekly benefit amount. These additional benefits may be available from March 29, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

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