

STATE OF WISCONSIN



Department of Workforce Development
Unemployment Insurance Division

Claiming Pandemic Unemployment Assistance in Wisconsin

Authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) provides up to 39 weeks of benefits. It is available starting with the week ending February 8, 2020 and going through the week ending December 26, 2020.

What is PUA

PUA provides temporary income to individuals who are unemployed as a result of the novel COVID-19 pandemic and are either self-employed, do not have sufficient work history to be eligible for a claim, or have exhausted other forms of unemployment insurance benefits. It is funded by the federal government, not by state unemployment taxes paid by employers.

You are not eligible for PUA if you qualify for regular UI benefits

Who May be Eligible for PUA

To be eligible for benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment assistance, you must:

- Not qualify for regular Unemployment Insurance (UI), Extended Benefits (EB), or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) OR
- Have exhausted all forms of UI above OR
- Have been self-employed and not eligible for one of the forms of unemployment insurance listed above **AND**
- Be fully or partially unemployed for one of the qualifying COVID-19 reasons following:

Reasons for Qualifying

To be eligible for PUA, you must be unemployed, partially unemployed, or unable or unavailable to work due to one of the COVID-19 related reasons listed below:

- You have been diagnosed with COVID-19 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 member of your family or household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
- A child or other person in your household for which you have 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 you to work.
- You are unable to reach your place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- You are unable to reach your place of employment because you have been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19.
- You were scheduled to commence employment and do not have a job or are unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- You have become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of COVID-19.
- You quit your job as a direct result of COVID-19.
- Your place of employment is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

PUA will be Reduced or Denied if:

- You are able to telework with pay.
- You are receiving paid sick leave or other paid leave benefits.

PUA Weekly Benefit Rate (WBR)

Your PUA weekly benefit rate (WBR) will be based on UI law. The PUA WBR will not be lower than 50% of

the average payment for a full week of regular UI benefits and will not exceed the current maximum UI WBR. The minimum PUA WBR is \$163. The maximum PUA WBR is \$370.

Self-employed individuals and those who don't have a sufficient work history to meet monetary requirements for UI must provide proof of their earnings for the prior tax year within 21 days of filing the initial claim. Acceptable forms of proof of earnings include: Form 1040 tax return, financial statement, W-2, paychecks and stubs.

How To Apply for PUA Benefits

Logon to my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov and use the link on your dashboard to apply for PUA online.

Have the following information available:

- Social Security Number.
- Wisconsin Driver's License, if you have one.
- A list of all employers you worked for in the past 18 months, their complete addresses (including zip codes), telephone numbers and the dates you began and last worked for them.
- Those who don't monetarily qualify for a UI claim will need proof of wages/self-employment from the most recent tax year.
- Farmers should also have: # of acres, # of acres in CRP, # of livestock, # of livestock sold due to COVID-19 pandemic, # of cows being milked.

Filing a Weekly Claim Certification

You must file a weekly claim for each week you want to receive benefits. File your weekly claims for PUA online at my.unemployment.wisconsin.gov after you receive notice of eligibility.

Weekly claims cannot be filed until eligibility has been determined. A link for filing weekly claims will be offered if you are determined eligible.

For help using online services or if you are unable to go online call (414) 435-7069 or toll-free (844) 910-3661. ***A PUA hotline will be coming soon.**

See "[Pandemic Unemployment Assistance \(PUA\) Rights and Responsibilities](#)" (PUA-18781-P) for more complete information and appeal rights.