Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Program Progression
Understanding the Programs & How to get Benefits

The U.S. Department of Labor directs the order of Unemployment Compensation programs. You will need to apply, and exhaust all benefits available under each of the below programs before being eligible to apply for the next program.

Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation - Up to 26 Weeks of Benefits
- Regular Unemployment Compensation (UC) benefits are available to individuals who have lost their job or had hours reduced through no fault of their own and are found financially eligible. Visit www.uc.pa.gov and select “File an Initial Claim” to apply.
- Eligible to receive $600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) until it expires on July 25, 2020.

Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) - 13 Weeks
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) becomes available after regular UC benefits are exhausted. Visit www.uc.pa.gov/PEUC to learn about applying.
- Weekly Benefit Amount based on regular unemployment claim.
- Eligible to receive $600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) until it expires on July 25, 2020.

Pennsylvania Extended Benefits (EB) – Up to 13 Weeks of Benefits
- Extended Benefits becomes available after regular UC benefits and PEUC are exhausted.
- Weekly Benefit Amount is based on regular unemployment claim.
- Number of Extended Benefit Weeks are typically 50 percent of the amount of regular UC claim weeks you were financially eligible to receive (e.g. regular UC claim eligibility for 23 weeks, means you’ll receive 11.5 EB weeks of benefits.)
- There is no application, EB-eligible claimants will receive a letter in the mail after their PEUC claim is exhausted.
- EB claimants will simply file their weekly certification as they did for regular UC and PEUC.
- Eligible to receive $600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) until it expires on July 25, 2020.

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) - Up to 39 Weeks of Benefits
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) is payable for weeks of unemployment, partial unemployment, or inability to work caused by COVID-19 related reasons beginning on or after January 27, 2020. Visit www.uc.pa.gov/PUA to apply.
- Weekly Benefit Amount is based on 2019 taxes, 1099’s, W-2, or any additional documentation that will verify 2019 earnings.
- Eligible to receive $600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) until it expires on July 25, 2020.

Note: If you are collecting a current claim type but are eligible for a previous claim type in progression, you must stop collecting on the current claim and apply for the appropriate claim. For example, if you’re collecting PUA, but are eligible for Extended Benefits, you must stop collecting PUA to begin filing EB continued claims.

Refusing to return to work could result in disqualification for benefit eligibility. Attempts to collect unemployment benefits after quitting a job without good cause is considered to be fraud. Employers are able to report refusal of suitable work by emailing RefusalofWork@pa.gov.