## What is PEUC?

Pandemic Emergency unemployment compensation, or PEUC, is a temporary federal program that provides thirteen (13) additional weeks of benefits to qualified individuals. This program is authorized under Section 2107 of the CARES Act of 2020.

## Who is eligible for PEUC?

PEUC benefits are available to qualified individuals whose regular UC benefits exhausted July 6, 2019 or later. Eligibility requirements for receipt of regular UC are also applicable to PEUC. For example, you must be at least partially unemployed, able and available for suitable work, not disqualified for voluntarily leaving work, and not discharged for willful misconduct. You must report all work performed and gross wages earned during weeks claimed.

**Who needs to apply?**

**Individuals who are still within their 1-year UC benefit year should not apply**. After you are paid the balance of your UC benefits, the department automatically adds the 13 weeks of benefits for you.

**Individuals whose UC benefit year expired must apply**. An individual can receive a maximum of 13 weeks of PEUC. You cannot receive an additional 13 weeks at a later time or from another claim.

## How do I apply for PEUC?

You cannot apply in advance. If you are still unemployed, you may complete the application after your benefit year has expired.

It is best to apply for PEUC benefits online: **www.uc.pa.gov**

For individuals without internet access, the EUC-8 application will be mailed toward the end of your UC claim. Complete the application and mail to L&I Office of UC Benefits, Harrisburg UCSC, 651 Boas St., 15th floor, Harrisburg, PA 17121-0751.

## May I claim PEUC if I am eligible for regular UC?

Generally, no. You are not eligible for PEUC if you are eligible for regular UC from Pennsylvania, another state, the federal government or Canada.

Periodically, the department tests each PEUC claimant for eligibility for regular UC. This may result in a brief delay in your payments.

You must also meet the following requirements:

* You had a regular UC claim with a benefit year that ended on or after July 6, 2019, OR you currently have a regular UC claim on which you received the maximum amount of benefits.
* You must be legally authorized to work in the United States if you are not a citizen of the United States.

## How do I claim weeks of PEUC?

You must continue filing biweekly in the same manner as you did for regular UC.

* **Individuals who are auto-setup**: Continue biweekly filing. If you were paid for just one week the last time you filed for UC benefits, your biweekly cycle has likely shifted and you must start filing biweekly for PEUC the week after you last filed for UC.
* **Individuals applying online/paper:** Claim weeks are available after staff process your application.
* **Everyone:** it is best to log into the biweekly filing portal each week to see if your PEUC weeks are available for filing. After the first time you file biweekly, proceed filing every other week, thereafter.

You may use the Internet or Pennsylvania Teleclaims (PAT) if you have received a notice that you are financially eligible for PEUC. Call PAT at 888-255-4728 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time, Sunday through Friday, or visit [www.uc.pa.gov](http://www.uc.pa.gov/) and click on “File a Biweekly Claim,” to file claim weeks using the Internet.

## How much PEUC can I receive and for how long?

PEUC benefits are paid at the same weekly benefit amount as the regular UC claim on which they are based, including any dependents’ allowances, for a maximum of 13 weeks times that weekly benefit amount. You will receive a notice of financial determination that indicates your weekly and maximum amount of PEUC.

The first and last payable week of the PEUC program is specified by federal law. The first payable week is April 4, 2020 and the last payable week is December 26, 2020.

Please refer to our website for the current information about the program.

## What about revised financial determinations?

If your financial determination is revised for any reason after you begin receiving your PEUC benefits, the maximum number of weeks shown on the revised determination will include weeks from prior financial

determinations. You must subtract the PEUC you have already received from the maximum amount indicated on the revised determination to calculate the amount of new PEUC that is added to your account.

## Why should I keep a record of my benefits?

You should keep your own record of the benefits you receive so you will know how many weeks remain until your PEUC benefits are exhausted.

## How is PEUC paid?

PEUC is paid either by direct deposit or debit card.

If you signed up to receive your UC benefits by direct deposit within the last two years, your PEUC payments also will be deposited directly into your bank account and you do not need to submit a new direct deposit application. If you received UC benefits most recently by debit card, your PEUC payments will be made to you by debit card unless you choose direct deposit.

## Registration and Work Search

If you have not already registered while receiving your UC benefits, please register for employment-search services after filing an application for PEUC benefits. To register, go to the Pennsylvania PA CareerLink® web site at www.pacareerlink.pa.gov. Follow the instructions provided to create a Keystone ID (user name) and password using your complete Social Security Number and then provide the applicable information to complete your profile and job preferences. Once you have completed the registration process, you will receive a registration confirmation page.

Under Pennsylvania’s emergency rules currently in place due to COVID-19, the requirement to register and search for work have been waived, but only for the duration of the PA disaster declaration.

## Other questions?

Additional information is located on our website at [www.uc.pa.gov.](http://www.uc.pa.gov.)

**Pandemic Emergency Unemployment**

**Compensation**

**(PEUC)**

**Program**

## Need help finding a job?

Once you have registered for employment-search services, PA CareerLink® can provide you with access to over 200,000 online job postings which are refreshed each day. You can search for jobs based on criteria that you set or PA CareerLink® can recommend jobs to you based on your skills and qualifications. Create your résumé using one of PA CareerLink® templates or simply upload your existing résumé to PA CareerLink®.

You can make your résumé available to employers who are registered in the system and searching for candidates.

## What are my appeal rights?

Appeal rights for PEUC are the same as appeal rights for regular UC. Your appeal rights are explained in your UCP-1, PA UC Handbook.

## What if I receive PEUC to which I am not entitled?

You may be required to repay PEUC that you received improperly. You may be disqualified from receiving benefits in the future and subject to criminal penalties if you commit fraud in order to receive PEUC.

## How will PEUC affect TRA?

You cannot collect Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA) for a week if you are eligible to receive PEUC; you must claim PEUC instead of TRA. If you were claiming TRA benefits, your TRA benefits are suspended until you exhaust PEUC. When you exhaust PEUC, your eligibility to resume TRA will be determined.

While collecting PEUC, covered workers for Trade Adjustment Assistance must continue to meet all deadlines, including the deadline to enroll in training or obtain or renew a training waiver. Contact your local PA CareerLink® office for information on training and waivers.

If you have questions on the effect of PEUC on your

TRA benefits, please call the UC service center at

888-313-7284, and ask to speak to a TRA representative.

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.*

*Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

# Information and Instructions for Pennsylvania

**PEUC Claimants**

*This pamphlet explains your rights and responsibilities for PEUC under state and federal law. It will answer many questions you may have about PEUC. This pamphlet is not, however, an official statement of law and does not have the force of law or regulations.* ***Please read all information carefully****.*



OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS POLICY

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

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