



DC Unemployment Assistance

The Federal CARES Act was signed into law March 27, 2020. The Act provides Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) for **D.C. Residents**

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE (PUA)

Expanded eligibility for individuals who have traditionally been ineligible for Unemployment Benefits such as **self-employed workers, independent contractors, those not eligible for regular unemployment**

**Are you someone not eligible for traditional Unemployment Benefits?
Ask yourself these questions and follow these steps to receive PUA benefits:**

How do I know if I qualify?

FIRST, you must be a **self-employed worker, independent contractor, or someone else not eligible for regular unemployment**

SECOND, do you answer **yes** to one of the following questions:

- Did your place of employment close due to COVID-19?
- Are you unable to go to your job because you are being advised to self-quarantine?
- Are you now taking care of a child or household member no longer able to attend their school or facility because of COVID-19 and their attendance is required for you to be able to work?
- Are you unable to reach your place of employment due to COVID-19?
- Did you quit your job because of COVID-19?
- Have you or a member of your household been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- Are you now the main support for your household because the head of household died from COVID-19?
- Are you experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking diagnosis?
- Are you providing care for a family or household member with COVID-19?
- Were you scheduled to begin working but no longer have that job or cannot reach it because of COVID-19?

How to Apply in DC? (FOLLOW THESE TWO STEPS)

FIRST, file for regular unemployment benefits before completing the PUA application

Information Needed for Claiming

Unemployment Benefits:

[Regular Unemployment Application](#)

- Your social security number;
- Alien Registration Number, if not a US Citizen;
- Your DD214, if you are ex-military;
- Your Standard Form 8 or Standard Form 50, if you are a former federal employee;
- Severance pay information, if you did or will receive severance pay;
- Pension information, if you are receiving a pension payment);
- Evidence of a public health emergency impact (if applying due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency).
- Documentation may include:
 - A letter documenting a voluntary request or involuntary order to isolate or quarantine from a medical professional or local health official
 - A note from your medical provider or medical records office recommending isolation or quarantine
 - A self-determination that the Department of Health's quarantine guidance applies to you

SECOND, file a PUA Application

You may need to provide additional supporting documentation about your work and income history, the DC Department of Employment Services will review documentation including but not limited to:

- tax returns;
- contracts;
- paycheck stubs;
- invoices; and/or
- bank receipts;
- billing statements
- ledgers;

[PUA Application](#)

PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (FPUC)

An additional \$600 per week, on top of regular benefits, to all UC, PEUC, and recipients

Approved for PUA benefits? What should you do for FPUC?

Do nothing – your benefit will automatically be updated after it is determined that you are eligible for Unemployment Benefits, either traditional or PUA

What you may qualify to receive:

- An additional \$600/week until July 31, 2020 (beginning April 4, 2020)

For a detailed Question and Answer provided by the DC Department of Employment Services visit:

https://does.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/does/page_content/attachments/DOES_PUA_FAQs.pdf

Assistance may be sought with [First Shift Justice Project](#) or the [DC Bar Pro Bono Project](#)