
Updated Information About Unemployment Insurance for Gig Workers

Each week we are bringing you updates, tips and tricks,

and other important information about filing for unemployment

If you're a self-employed worker who's lost income in this crisis, you may now qualify for unemployment benefits thanks to the expanded **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)** benefits provided by the CARES Act. The best way to stay in the loop about unemployment insurance updates is by signing up for the Employment Security Department's (ESD) **COVID-19 action alerts**.

Don't worry - money will not run out!

There is a misconception that the money is going to run out and that people need to be first in line to be sure to get their unemployment benefits - this is not true! You don't have to panic - the money will not run out and you will not miss out if you have to wait to apply.

Don't forget to start submitting your weekly claims!

Once you are approved for unemployment benefits - you must make weekly claims to actually get paid! Here are tips for submitting your weekly claims:

- Start submitting weekly claims the week after you apply (Sunday-Saturday), even if you are not yet approved. This will make your payments come faster.
- Once you submit your application for expanded benefits, which is listed as "COVID-19 PUA Claim" in the online application, you can then submit for the previous weeks you were owed after you become eligible for expanded benefits.
- Job search: Click "no" when asked if you completed job search this week. That requirement is temporarily optional and you do not need to report your job search activities to the ESD at this time.
- You can file online and by phone 24/7. Traffic is lowest late at night to early in the morning (11 p.m. to 6 a.m.)
- This is a big ask, but it will help a neighbor in need: The ESD has asked if you can afford to wait a couple extra days to get paid, please file your claim after Monday. This will allow those who need the benefit most to file and get paid first.
- You can learn more about submitting weekly claims [here](#).