



Unemployment for Gig Workers: Lost Wages Assistance Program

What is the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program?

The Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program is a federal program that adds \$300 for each week the program remains federally funded. If you receive unemployment benefits for certain weeks and you are unemployed or working fewer hours due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, you may be eligible for these benefits.

Washington's Employment Security Department is required to submit applications for LWA each week for as many weeks as funds are available.

So far, Washington's ESD has been approved to give out LWA payments retroactively for the weeks ending Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Who is eligible to receive LWA Payments?

To be eligible for LWA payments, you must have been unemployed or working fewer hours due to disruptions caused by COVID-19 and received unemployment benefits for the approved weeks of the program (see above.) If you're eligible for any of the approved weeks, you will receive the extra \$300 retroactively for those weeks.

I'm eligible, so how do I apply for the LWA payments?

If you have an eServices account, you will see a notice in your account saying that you need to answer an eligibility question. This will appear in your account starting Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020. Click the link to answer one question to certify if you were unemployed or working fewer hours due to COVID-19 at any time since Feb. 2, 2020.

If you are receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), you don't need to answer the eligibility question because you already have. In that case, you won't receive a notice in eServices. You will be automatically paid the extra \$300 for the weeks you are eligible.

When will I receive the LWA payments?

ESD will start processing payments for this new program Mon. Sept. 21, 2020. If you are eligible, you will receive the money in your account as soon as your bank processes the payment. Payments will be retroactive for all the weeks for which you are eligible and funding is available from the federal government.

**To learn more about the
Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program visit [this page](#).**