

**Pandemic Emergency
Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
Program**



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS POLICY

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*

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.

Information and Instructions for Pennsylvania PEUC Claimants

What is PEUC?

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

How do I apply for PEUC?

When you have exhausted your regular state UC benefits (your account balance is \$0), the department will mail you an initial application for PEUC. If you are still unemployed, you may complete and sign this form and return it to the UC service center by mail or fax. You should return the completed application immediately in order to minimize any interruption in your benefits. If you do not receive an application for PEUC within seven days after you received the final payment on your regular UC claim, call the UC service center at 888-313-7284.

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.

Who is eligible for PEUC?

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.

You must also meet the following requirements:

- You had a regular UC claim with a benefit year that ended on or after July 2, 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 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 and click on "File for Weekly Benefits," to file claim weeks using the Internet.

How much PEUC can I receive and for how long?

Based on current federal law, all PEUC benefits are paid at the same weekly benefit amount as the regular UC claim on which they are based, including any dependents' allowances. You will receive a notice of financial determination that indicates your weekly and maximum amount of PEUC. Please refer to your financial determination for the number of weeks you have been determined eligible to receive.

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. A total of 13 weeks is payable for PEUC.

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

To maintain your eligibility for PEUC, if you have not already registered while receiving your UC benefits, you must register for employment-search services after filing an application for PEUC benefits. To register, go to the Pennsylvania CareerLink® website 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.

Active Search for Work

You are required to conduct an active search for work and must keep a record of your work-search activities and provide the record to the department when requested to do so. A detailed description of the active search for work requirement will be mailed to you, along with a work-search record form (UC-304).

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 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.

Other questions?

Additional information is located on our website at www.uc.pa.gov.