**COVID-19 Resources: Guide for Unemployment + CARES ACT Benefits**

**STATE (PA)**

*The following four benefits programs are managed/enforced/administered by Pennsylvania’s Office of Unemployment Compensation.*

**Unemployment Compensation (UC)**

* [Eligibility](https://www.uc.pa.gov/Pages/covid19.aspx):
  + Your employer temporarily closes or goes out of business because of COVID-19
  + Your employer reduces your hours because of COVID-19
  + You have been told not to work because your employer feels you might get or spread COVID-19
  + You have been told to quarantine or self-isolate, or live/work in a county under government-recommended mitigation efforts
* [Required Documents and Information](https://www.uc.pa.gov/Documents/UC_Forms/UC-23.pdf):

*Personal Information:*

* SSN
* Home address and mailing address (if different)
* Telephone number
* Valid email
* PIN - Personal Identification Number (optional) - If you have previously filed a UC claim, using your previous PIN can prevent you from having to re-enter information
* Direct deposit bank information (optional) - bank name, address, account, and routing number

*Information about Separating Employer:*

* + Employer's name, address, and phone number
  + Employer's PA UC account number (if known)
  + First and last day worked with employer
  + Reason for leaving
  + Pension or severance package information (if applicable)

**Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) – Self-Employed, Contractors**

* [Eligibility](https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/CARES-Act/Pages/PUA-FAQs.aspx):

You should [file for PUA](https://www.uc.pa.gov/unemployment-benefits/file/Pages/Filing-for-PUA.aspx) if you are ineligible for regular UC because you have lost income due to COVID-19 and:

* + are self-employed;
  + are seeking part-time work;
  + lack sufficient work history; or
  + have exhausted all rights to regular UC or extended benefits.
* Required Documents and Information:

*Personal Information:*

* + SSN
  + Home address and mailing address (if different)
  + Telephone number
  + Valid email
  + PIN - Personal Identification Number (optional) - If you have previously filed a UC claim, using your previous PIN can prevent you from having to re-enter information
  + Direct deposit bank information (optional) - bank name, address, account and routing number

*Documentation of wages:*

* + 2019 tax returns;
  + Your 2019 1099 form(s);
  + Paycheck stubs;
  + Bank receipts;
  + Ledgers;
  + Contracts;
  + Invoices; and/or
  + Billing statements.

**Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) – Additional Benefits**

* [Eligibility:](https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/CARES-Act/Pages/FPUC-FAQs.aspx)
  + An individual must first be eligible for UC or [PUA](https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/CARES-Act/Pages/PUA-FAQs.aspx) benefits to qualify for the additional $600 per week in benefits.
* Required Documents and Information:
  + Individuals don't need to do anything extra to receive the $600. Continue to file biweekly claims, and benefits will be automatically updated.

**Federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) – For UC Benefit Exhauster**

* [Eligibility:](https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/CARES-Act/Pages/PEUC-FAQs.aspx)

You are eligible for PEUC if:

* + You exhausted your regular state or federal benefits after July 1, 2019;
  + You are not currently eligible for state or federal unemployment benefits; and
  + You are able and available to work and actively seeking work, except in instances where COVID-19 has made it not possible, including illness, quarantine, or "stay at home" orders.
* [Required Documents and Information:](https://www.uc.pa.gov/COVID-19/CARES-Act/Pages/PEUC-FAQs.aspx)
  + If you currently have an open UC claim, there is nothing for you to do other than continue filing your bi-weekly claim.

**FEDERAL**

**Federal Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus Checks)**

*Administered by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)*

* [Eligibility](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center#eligibility):

U.S. citizens and U.S. resident aliens will receive the Economic Impact Payment of $1,200 for individual or head of household filers, and $2,400 for married filing jointly if they are not a dependent of another taxpayer and have a work eligible Social Security number with adjusted gross income up to:

* + $75,000 for individuals if their filing status was single or married filing separately
  + $112,500 for head of household filers and
  + $150,000 for married couples filing joint returns

Taxpayers will receive a reduced payment if their AGI is between:

* + $75,000 and $99,000 if their filing status was single or married filing separately
  + 112,500 and $136,500 for head of household
  + $150,000 and $198,000 if their filing status was married filing jointly

The amount of the reduced payment will be based upon the taxpayers specific adjusted gross income.

* [Actions to take:](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center#eligibility)

No additional action is needed by taxpayers who:

* + have already filed their tax returns this year for 2019. The IRS will use this information to calculate the payment amount.
  + haven’t filed yet for 2019 but filed a 2018 federal tax return. For these taxpayers the IRS will use their information from 2018 tax filings to make the Economic Impact Payment calculations.

There are other individuals such as low-income workers and certain veterans and individuals with disabilities who aren’t required to file a tax return, but they are still eligible for the Economic Impact Payments.

Taxpayers can check the IRS.gov tool - [Do I Need to File a Tax Return?](https://www.irs.gov/help/ita/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return) - to see if  they have a filing requirement.

If you don’t have to file, use the "[Non-Filers: Enter Payment Info Here](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here)" application to provide simple information so you can get your payment.

**Cash workers:**

1) As a cash worker you may qualify for the Economic Impact Payment (Stimulus Check) as long as you:

* + - are a U.S. citizen, a nonresident alien, or a resident alien;
    - have a SSN; and
    - a[re eligible to fill out the “non-filer application form,” which means you are not required to file](https://www.irs.gov/node/6555)a federal income tax return for 2019 for any reason including:
      * Your income is less than $12,200
      * You’re married filing jointly and together your income is less than $24,400
      * You have no income

If you meet the above requirements, you can go to [this address to get to the “non-filer” page of the IRS](https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/non-filers-enter-payment-info-here). You will need to provide the following info:

* Full name, current mailing address, and an email address
* Date of birth and valid Social Security number
* Bank account number, type, and routing number, if you have one
* Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN) you received from the IRS earlier this year, if you have one
* Driver’s license or state-issued ID, if you have one
* For each qualifying child during 2019: name, Social Security number or Adoption Taxpayer Identification Number and their relationship to you or your spouse

2) Cash workers may also qualify for the PUA (see above).