

# DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## EXPANSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS UNDER THE NEW CARES ACT (UPDATED APRIL 8, 2020)

Please read our [CARES Act Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more information about benefit eligibility, duration and amounts.

The federal government recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), which includes an expansion of unemployment insurance benefits for District of Columbia workers.

While the CARES Act was signed into law by the President on March 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor is still in the process of releasing corresponding guidance to provide states with operating, financial and reporting instructions specific to the CARES Act of 2020 through the issuance of a series of Unemployment Insurance Program Letters (UIPLs). Like most other states, the District's Unemployment Insurance system is currently being updated to enable processing of the new CARES Act programs.

A summary of the expanded unemployment insurance programs offered through the provisions of the CARES Act is provided below:

- **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)**

- PUA is effective January 27, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
- Individuals who are typically ineligible for regular UI (i.e. independent contractors, gig workers, those with insufficient work history) that cannot work due to COVID-19 are eligible for a maximum of 39 weeks of benefits, which includes \$600 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC).
- Our system is currently updated to enable processing of PUA related applicants, as they were formerly considered ineligible. If you have already attempted to submit an application, it will initially be denied. **PLEASE BE PATIENT**; you will have an opportunity to resubmit an application soon.
- If you have not submitted an application and are self-employed, an independent contractor, gig worker, have an insufficient work history, and/or you believe you may now be eligible. We encourage you to submit an application upon completion of our system modifications. To receive a notification once the new application is available, please send an email to [PUA@dc.gov](mailto:PUA@dc.gov) and we will contact you accordingly.

- **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)**

- Effective March 29, 2020 through July 25, 2020.
- \$600 per week on top of current regular UI benefits.
- Benefit will be automatically updated if you qualify, are currently receiving benefits, and once our technical systems are modified.

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

- Effective March 29, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
- 13 additional weeks of UI benefits, plus \$600 FPUC, although FPUC expires at the end of July 2020.
- Benefit will be automatically updated if you qualify, are currently receiving benefits, and once our technical systems are modified.

We will update this web page, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) when we have more information.

## OFF-PEAK HOURS

We strongly encourage you to file your [initial application](#) for benefits online. This online application is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For faster processing times, we recommend that you file during non-peak hours, such as early in the morning or late in the evening (8:00 PM - 7:00 AM).

## IDENTITY VERIFICATION PROGRAM

To verify your identity, you must provide clear images/copies of your Government-Issued Photo I.D. and Social Security Card via email to [DOESUI.Verification@DC.gov](mailto:DOESUI.Verification@DC.gov).

Disclaimer: The Department of Employment Services (DOES), in conjunction with the District's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) ensures all emails between DOES and each claimant is secure.

\*When emailing your identity documents, please provide the following information as the subject line: Identity Documents, the last 4 digits of your social security number and your legal first and last name.

**For resources and additional information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit [coronavirus.dc.gov](https://coronavirus.dc.gov).**



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR